WALSALL
CHRONICLE

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Schools prepare for extra demand

ONE hundred school places must be created in Walsall by 2015 to cope with growing demand.

A baby boom and new housing developments have sent demand for places spiralling. Council chiefs are drawing up plans to create more reception places to cope with the increasing number of children.

Moves have already been taken to increase the number of places in some Walsall schools.

Education boss Rachel Andrew said: "There are sufficient primary school places across Walsall to accommodate pupils for the next two academic years.

"In September 2015, we estimate that up to 100 additional places will be needed and we are currently considering potential options."

A £2.8 million scheme to enlarge Caldmore Community Primary School has already been carried out, doubling the intake to 60.

Hillary Primary is set to see its intake rise from 60 to 90 while Delves Junior School will increase from 81 children to 90 and New Invention from 53 to 60.

Girl dies in house fire

A TEENAGED girl from Walsall has died in a fire at a residential care home in Shropshire.

An investigation was this week taking place following the death of the 17-year-old.

The girl was in the care of Walsall Council but staying at Bagley Marsh, near Ellesmere.

She was declared dead at the scene at around 11.30pm on Saturday.

Bedroom

The fire in the house was confined to a bedroom and two adults who were also inside the property at the time were not hurt.

Walsall Council has extended its condolences to the family of the girl, who was not being named as the Chronicle went to press.

More gold found at Staffs Hoard site

A CORONER will be making a ruling next month on whether or not 90 pieces of gold and silver found in a field are part of the Staffordshire Hoard.

Archaeologists made the latest find at the same field where the biggest ever haul of Anglo-Saxon gold was unearthed back in 2009.

The items were found last month during a ploughing of the field in Hammerwich, near Brownhills.

South Staffordshire coroner Andrew Haigh will rule at an inquest on Friday, January 4, if the new pieces are part of the hoard and should be declared treasure.

Experts from Staffordshire County Council and English Heritage believe the pieces could be another part of the original find.

It has been three years since Terry Herbert, a metal detector enthusiast, made the discovery. Archaeologists had been certain until now there was nothing else on site.

Stunned

Dr Della Hooke, vice president of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archeological Society, said she was stunned by the discovery, that was made last month but only this week revealed.

Dr Hooke said: "It's absolutely amazing. In the last search they used top-quality equipment to go over the area, which they use to find underground stuff in Afghanistan.

"Nobody really knows why the hoard is there. It could have either been a deliberate burial on a boundary, perhaps after someone died, or buried quickly by someone who had stolen it.

"This new finding, if it is part of the hoard, could change everything.

"If they found the items in a different location it doesn't sound like it was stolen after all."

The hoard is the largest collection of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork ever found.

Plans for a viewing platform at the hoard field in Lichfield Road were being put before Hammerwich Parish Council yesterday (Wednesday).

Report on the death rates at hospital

AN independent report on death rates at Manor Hospital has been commissioned by concerned councillors.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the study by members of Walsall Council's health scrutiny panel.

It comes after the Doctor Foster Hospital Guide revealed the number of patient deaths was above expected levels in 2011/12.

The guide said Walsall Manor had a hospital standardised mortality rate of 117 between April 2011 and March 2012, compared to an expected level of 100.

Fallen

Hospital bosses say the rate has fallen to 92 between April and August this year.

Experts from Mott Macdonald will be analysing the mortality rates and the work being done to address the issue.

Health scrutiny panel chairman Councillor Marco Longhi said: "Members have been concerned about the figures which have, over a sustained period, been significantly higher than those in comparable hospitals."

BLITZ ON BINS IS HAILED A SUCCESS

A CONTROVERSIAL crackdown on rubbish being put in the wrong bins in Walsall is having the desired effect, council chiefs claimed, as it was revealed the number of bins uncollected has fallen by more than half.

A total of 5,000 green bins were refused during the second round of the tough zero-tolerance campaign.

It has seen inspectors – dubbed "binspectors" – travelling with rubbish crews to check green recycling bins for contaminating items including food waste, black bags and nappies. Any found to contain these items were slapped with a yellow sticker and were not emptied.

Up to 11,000 households fell foul of the crackdown in its first round of collections.

But the drop in the number of bins being left unemptied is a "major step in the right direction", council chiefs say.

Environment chief Tom Ansell said: "The recycling rate has really improved which is fantastic news but there is still more we can do.

Information

"Some residents still are not sure what can and cannot be recycled so we will be sending out further leaflets and putting clear information on our website and on the bins themselves."

He continued: "The grey bins are for food waste and wrappers, nappies and general household rubbish such as clothes, bedding, pet waste and food pouches. If you are unsure on anything please call our contact centre."

The crackdown was introduced after increasing amounts of rubbish had to be taken to landfill due to being contaminated.

Contamination was believed to be costing taxpayers thousands of pounds a week.

by Catherine Dalton

Households putting non-recyclables in green bins are still being targeted.

But the campaign has drawn some criticism from some residents who felt they were being penalised for trying to recycle.

Councillors have also said they have been inundated with calls from upset residents.

Councillor Pete Smith, Democratic Labour Party member for Blakenall, said: "I support the fact something needs to be done to get people to recycle.

"But I am concerned about cases where passers-by put rubbish in other peoples' bins that have been put out and then those residents are left with a full bin."

The main cause of contamination to recycling bins has been identified as general household waste, food waste, textiles, nappies and electrical goods.

Every household in the borough should by now have received a leaflet listing the materials that can be put into their green bins.

See Letters – page 20

Pub is full of festive cheer

PUB staff have helped to raise cash to buy more than 200 Christmas presents for two local charities.

More than £200 was raised through quizzes, raffles and donations at The Longhorn in Sutton Road, Walsall.The money was used to buy gifts such as games, books, arts and crafts materials which have been given to the Women's Refuge and family support charity Homestart in Walsall.

Glenys Bleakley, charity fund co-ordinator at The Longhorn, said: "We've been raising money since the start of October and it has enabled us to buy gifts.

"We've wrapped over 200 presents and given them to both charities who were very grateful.

"We always try to help one charity or another prior to Christmas.

"We are also aiming to raise £2,000 for the premature baby unit at Walsall Manor Hospital. We have £500 so far and are hoping to raise the rest by January."



Trustee at Homestart Walsall Joe Ellison with Stephanie Chang and Esther Bennet from the Longhorn pub

Bus staff cash gone

THOUSANDS of pounds saved by bus workers in a Christmas savings scheme has disappeared. Travel firm National Express has stepped in to offer financial help to the staff.

Workers visited Travel West Midlands Sport and Social Club Walsall, known as The Bus Club, to collect cash they had saved from their wages over the year. But when they turned up at the club in Essex Street last week they were told the money was not there.

Police said it was deemed to be a civil matter and no criminal investigation was taking place at this time.

The independent employee-run social club helps bus drivers, garage workers and former employees.

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CONTACT US

Got a story to tell or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Walsall:

Tom Mason: 01902 319466
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319490
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01384 353213
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Catherine Dalton 01922 444313
catherine.dalton@expressandstar.co.uk
Craig Hughes 01922 444316
craig.hughes@expressandstar.co.uk
Lisa O'Brien 01922 444312
lisa.obrien@expressandstar.co.uk
Marion Brennan 01543 465302
marion.brennan@expressandstar.co.uk

Email your pictures to:
walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Sports: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic: John Sambrooks
Tel: 01902 319431
Email j.sambrooks@expressandstar.co.uk

Advertising: Samantha Broad
Tel: 01543 465331
E-mail: s.broad@expressandstar.co.uk

Property: Marguerita Finnegan
Tel: 01543 465337
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring: Jayne La'Hiffe
Tel: 01543 465334
E-mail: j.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319537
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

WALSALL thechronicle
Queen Street
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WV1 1ES
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Haulage company invests in new lorries

LOGISTICS giant Aspray24 will be investing £2 million in more than 50 new lorries in the new year. The Willenhall company is also starting on the expansion of its Noose Lane site this month.

The expansion will see the creation of up to 30 new jobs at the firm.

Aspray24, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary, this year bought 50 vehicles for £2.6m from fellow Willenhall firm Greenhous DAF, taking its fleet up to around 500.It will soon be buying even more.

Managing director Stuart Laight said: "This month we start work on phase one of our expansion plan, which will see us expand our Willenhall site by a further five acres with a high bay storage warehouse adjacent to the existing hub.

"With £5m investment planned for next year in a two-phase operation to extend the site to 18 acres, and a minimum investment of £2m into a further 50 plus DAF trucks.

Partner

"It looks set to be a very memorable anniversary year for us."

Aspray24 employs more than 600 people and Mr Laight praised the business relationship with Greenhous. He continued: "Greenhous has been an important commercial partner in our success from day one. As the business has developed, Greenhous has been a constant when it comes to understanding our needs and supplying our vehicles. Over the past 30 years the team has changed, but the standards and ethos has never wavered."

Family-run Aspray24 bought the former site of George Carter Pressings in Park Road to enable the creation of the new 100,00sq ft base.

The five-and-a-half acre site had been empty since May 2009 when George Carter closed down after 179 years of business with the loss of 79 jobs.

Bus firm is banned for blocking rivals

A BUS firm has been banned from using an interchange in Walsall for three years after an inquiry found it blocked departure stands and drove in front of rivals to poach passengers.

Traffic Commissioner Nick Jones branded the Sandwell Travel Ltd as " amateurish", banned it from using Bradford Place and ordered it to cut its fleet from five to three, coming into effect on February 1.

At a public inquiry earlier this year Mr Jones heard that the company, based in Tinsley Street, had failed to run scheduled services and blocked stands at Bradford Place, which prevented another bus firm, Willenhall-based Liyell Ltd trading as Midland, from using them.

Sandwell Travel buses also ran in front rival vehicles to take their passengers, which prompted complaints.

Dangerous

Mr Jones said: "I find that the stand blocking and the dangerous behaviour continued from July 2011 until at least just before the public inquiry.

Mr Jones heard from the company's sole director Sukhwinder Singh and took evidence from individuals who had carried out monitoring of bus services.

The firm did show it was capable of keeping to the timetables for registered services, Mr Jones concluded, when drivers stopped running early after realising they were being monitored.

But he added: "If Sandwell Travel Ltd had been a competent operator it would have made better checks on its drivers and would have communicated with a rival company that had cause for complaint."

Mr Jones contrasted the "amateurish" operation of buses by Sandwell Travel Ltd with that of Liyell Ltd, which he found to be wholly professional.

Mr Jones issued his directions in writing. The inquiry was held on October 8.

New hub for community groups in town centre

A TOWN centre resource for voluntary and community organisations has opened.

Walsall Hub, at 17 Lichfield Street, provides a personal care suite, internet cafe with free wi-fi, meeting room, an information centre and office accommodation.

Midland Mencap has worked in partnership with Walsall Council to offer organisations an accessible and affordable base in the town centre.

Dave Rogers, chief executive officer of Midland Mencap, said: "We have completely refurbished Walsall Hub in order to offer accessible facilities to the people of Walsall.

"It will give the third sector, community and partner organisations not only a fantastic facility but also the opportunity to work alongside and in partnership with similar organisations."

Zumba party helps charity



Fundraising zumbathon organiser Lyndsey Moore (centre), from Aldridge, with left, Carrie Beckett from Great Wyrley and Ali Shaw from Cannock

ZUMBA fans in Walsall partied into the night to raise £800 for a cancer charity.

The five-hour zumbathon combined an exercise workout with a Christmas party.

People who attend classes in Aldridge, Streetly and Great Barr came together for the festive fun and raised money for Macmillan Cancer Support, which provides specialist nurses for people with cancer.

Around 100 tickets were sold and more money was raised from a raffle, with local businesses donating prizes.

Organiser Lyndsey Moore was joined by six other instructors for the marathon session, from 7pm till midnight.

She said: "It was more of a party than a workout, a chance for people from other classes to meet up and have some fun."

Car parks operator considers price cut

CHARGES may be cut at two car parks in Walsall town centre for motorists who use them for up to two hours.

Private operator NCP reduced all-day fees at almost 500 spaces at Freer Street and Station Street earlier this year. It means drivers now pay a flat rate charge of £3.

But bosses say they will consider in the new year whether to reduce the fees to £1 for drivers who park for up to an hour, and £2 for those using the car park for two hours or less.

The changes would come into force at the Freer Street car park first but would then be introduced at the Station Street site.

Flexible

Derek Kirkwood, manager for the parking operator, said: "In January, we will be looking at whether to make the charges more flexible."

The all-day fees reduced by more than half to £3 at the 120-space Station Street site last month.

Before that, the charges were £3 for up to two hours, £5 for four, £7 for up to six hours and £8 for a long stay, with reduced fees at weekends.

Mr Kirkwood said the move would attract more shoppers to the town centre.

Council will launch blitz on litterbugs

MOVES to crack down on litterbugs and rogue scrap metal trading across Walsall has been backed by council chiefs.

Measures have been drawn up to tackle the issues and received support of the decision-making cabinet.

More high-visibility patrols are to be carried out to stop rubbish being dropped, along with attaching additional ash trays and chewing gum trays to bins.

A new text messaging service has been introduced while the council is also looking at investing up to £3,000 on body cameras for enforcement staff to catch those responsible.

Councillor Zahid Ali, cabinet member for public protection, said: "We will be taking those people to court and prosecuting them to the full letter of the law."

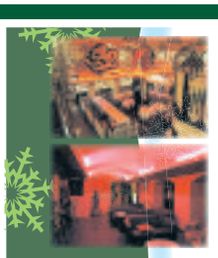
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Thief came 80 miles to steal charity clothes bags

A THIEF who travelled more than 80 miles to Walsall to steal hundreds of pounds worth of clothing from cancer charity bags has been spared jail.

Latvian man Maris Francuks, who has been resident in the UK for only 18 months, was caught in a van which had around £300 worth of clothes belonging to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

The LDV vehicle had been spotted by police near the Tesco store off Littleton Street in the town centre. It was seen at just before midnight on August 12 this year.

The vehicle was next to the recycling bins sparking the suspicions of officers who stopped the van after it had pulled away. Inside were three men, including Francuks, and a search revealed a large number of charity collection bags.

Trial

The 34-year-old from Sheffield, denied a charge of theft but was convicted following a day-long trial at Walsall Magistrates Court last week.

Speaking through an interpretor Francuksclaimed he had been picked up from Yorkshire and travelled to Birmingham, only going along because he wanted to visit the city. He claimed he was dropped off in the city and and collected again several hours later. Then the van stopped at the recycling bins in Walsall.

Francuks said he got out to have a cigarette and became aware there were bags in the vehicle. He said they were to be transported from the van to the charity recycling bins.

Mr Chris Stapleton, defending, said there was no forensic evidence or witnesses to suggest that Francuks had tried to steal any clothing.

He was given a 12 month conditional discharge and the hearing was told he had already spent five weeks in custody ahead of the case.

Lido work is nearly done

THE transformation of Walsall Arboretum lido is pushing ahead with most groundwork completed and hopes high it will be finished by the end of the year, despite flooding. Part of the £250,000 work is an interactive water play feature. The old lido, used since 1953, was condemned as unhygienic and Walsall Council decided to replace it.

Suspended prison sentence for benefits cheat

A WALSALL benefits cheat who wrongly received almost £30,000 after failing to reveal he was working has been spared an immediate stint behind bars.

Matthew Johnson claimed income support, council tax and housing benefits he was not entitled to over almost four years. He falsely got £29,577 after failing to tell the Department for Work and Pensions that he had been securing agency work.

The 34-year-old admitted two charges of failing to notify a change of circumstances between December 2007 and October 2011.

At Walsall Magistrates Court he was given 16 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, to include supervision and £180 costs.

Val Hart, prosecuting, said it was discovered in 2011 he had been working while in receipt of benefits. He sought employment through the Vital Working Group and money was paid into another account.

She said he worked for most of that time an average of more than 16 hours a week. In questionnaires in 2009 and 2011 he indicated he was not working.

Mr Chris Loach, defending, said the father-of-two, started claiming after an eye problem. He initially claimed correctly and was not fraudulent.

Mr Loach said Johnson, now of Thames Road, Blakenall, had lost the flat where he had lived.

"He has admitted the matter from the start, he hasn't tried to deceive anyone in interview or deny it was him.

"Not only is he going to have to pay the money back he has lost his own flat.

"He managed to get some work through an agency. There were many weeks he would have worked under the limit and been entitled to benefits."

Johnson had no previous convictions for fraud or dishonesty.

Primary schools to be a top priority, says leader

WALSALL Council leader Mike Bird says the borough's primary schools will be looked at as a top priority after they were placed among some of the worst in the country.

The borough has plummeted down schools league table, plunging in the national ranking list of 152 local authorities from 77th place to 147th.

Figures show 75 per cent of 11 year olds in the borough achieved Level 4 or above in their Key Stage 2 SATs tests this year – the national average is 79 per cent.

Councillor Bird said: "We are now looking to address this as a matter of urgency and will analyse it and establish why there's been this decl ine."

Last year, the council axed its £345 million contract with private firm Serco, which had been running education services for around 10 years. Services are currently being phased back to the council and this is expected to be completed by April.

It involves the transfer of 345 education and childcare workers back to the local authority.

However, many schools in Walsall are now academies, which mean they have opted out of local authority control.

Halved

The Department of Education tables released last week also show that all Black Country neighbours were ranked higher than Walsall. Sandwell was ranked at 95, Wolverhampton at 116 and Dudley at 118.

Nationally, there have been improvements with the number of primary schools failing to give pupils a good grounding in the three Rs having halved in the space of a year. In total, 521 schools in England are below the Government's floor target for primaries. Last year, 1,310 schools were below the threshold.

The best performing school in Walsall this year was Lindens Primary in Streetly. However, two Walsall schools were named in the bottom 200 performing schools nationally, Busill Jones Primary and Hatherton Primary.

Five bailed over death at hospital

FOUR ambulance staff and a health worker arrested on suspicion of manslaughter after a patient died on the doorstep of a hospital have been released on police bail.

They had been arrested in an investigation into the death of Carl Cope, aged 47, of Parker Street, Bloxwich, who collapsed outside Walsall Manor Hospital A&E department on June 23. A post mortem revealed he died of a heart attack.

Suspended

The five staff were held on suspicion of manslaughter by gross negligence and misconduct in a public office.

West Midlands Police spokesman Lee Page confirmed the four ambulance workers, aged 26, 34, 45 and 53, and hospital worker, aged 44, have been bailed pending further inquiries.

One of the ambulance workers held over the death was still working at the time of their arrest but has now been suspended.

Music hall singalong at party



Doris Chilton, aged 95, with 'Santa' Mark Richardson, his daughter Susan, aged three, Blue Coat Academy head boy Mazar Ul-Haq and head girl Folayemi Olorunselu

ALMOST 100 pensioners were treated to an afternoon of festive songs and games at an annual Christmas party provided by schoolchildren.

Youngsters at Walsall's Blue Coat Academy have held a pensioner's Christmas party every December for more than 30 years.

And it is a tradition sixth formers at the Birmingham Street school are determined to keep alive.

A total of 96 pensioners from Walsall and Wolverhampton attended this year's event.

The school choir performed old time musical hall favourites such as Roll Out the Barrel before treating the audience to a Christmas sing-a-long.

Organised

Bingo was also on offer as well as a spread of party food.

The event was organised by a team of 80 sixth formers, led by head boy Mazar Ul-Haq and head girl Folayemi Olorunselu.

School spokesman Sandra Vernon said: "It was a wonderful afternoon, and everyone who came seemed to really enjoy it.

"The sixth formers have worked very hard to put this on, and we had some lovely donations of prizes and food from Marks & Spencer, Asda and Co-operative Travel."

NEWS in brief

No decision yet on park warden jobs

COUNCIL bosses have insisted no decisions have been made on the future of Walsall's countryside services in the wake of budget cut proposals.

A campaign group has put forward suggests after it emerged the budget could be slashed by £400,000 next year.

Concerns have been raised as part of a merger of Street Pride and the Green Spaces units with a report stating the number of park rangers could fall from 23 to 10.

Linda Mason, of Save Walsall's Green Spaces and Countryside Services group, urged the borough's cabinet last week to reduce management and backroom posts rather than rangers.

Club damaged in suspected attack

A NIGHTCLUB in Walsall town centre was damaged in a suspected arson attack.

Flames could be seen coming out of the windows of Modus Vivendi and a passer-by raised the alarm at around 4.30am last Thursday.

Around 20 per cent of the premises in Bridge Street was damaged. The blaze caused smoke damage and ruined seats.

The club was closed and no-one was injured. A small amount of smoke spread to upstairs flats but no-one needed to be evacuated.

Police said the fire is being treated as arson.

A Blue Christmas service at church

A CHURCH in Walsall is offering a different kind of festive service with its Blue Christmas Service.

The quiet reflective service is for anyone who finds Christmas a difficult time of the year and will be held at St Martin's Church, Sutton Road, Walsall, this weekend.

Rev Simon Bickersteth said: "We want to give people a chance to be honest about how they are feeling this Christmas and to reach out for hope and comfort."

The Blue Christmas service will take place on Sunday at 3.30pm.

Hopwas ramble

THE Walsall group of ramblers will be heading to Hopwas, near Tamworth, for a 7.5 mile circular walk on December 30.

Call the walk leader on (01922) 631404 for more information.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



LET me start by wishing all the readers (even the awkward-squad ones) a merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

THE little boys and girls slaughtered in the Connecticut school massacre were human sacrifices on the altar of America's obsession with guns. The US Constitution allows its citizens to possess weapons in order that an efficient militia can be maintained – in other words to let the people fight off foreign invaders. The reality is that no American citizen has fired a shot at a foreign invader in the US mainland for 200 years. Yet over the past two centuries gun-toting Americans have killed hundreds of thousands of their fellow Americans. They will continue to do so until they realise that in a modern democracy having lethal weapons in the home is not a civil right, nor a guarantee of liberty but the mark of the beast.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

YET America is a democracy. If it had the political will it could introduce gun control tomorrow. It chooses not to do so. We can only conclude, with some horror, that it considers the occasional slaughter of its children to be a price worth paying for the right to keep an assault rifle in the bedroom. And the truly terrible thing is that some of those whose own children have died in the endless succession of massacres believe that, too.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

IT USED to be said, in the days of music halls, that the Devil had all the best tunes. At this time of year, as the air fills with much-loved carols, it may seem the Almighty has all the best tunes. And then I went to a carol service where the choir sang two hits from The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992), Thankful Heart and It Feels Like Christmas. Believe me, The Muppets have all the best tunes.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

THE choristers in question were all elderly gentleman. Imagine a Muppet choir made up entirely of Statlers and Waldorfs and you get the picture.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

OUR changing language. Lib-Dem leader Nick Clegg on the success of the Coalition: "On the whole I hope it will actually surprise on the upside." No, I haven't a clue what it means either. Perhaps Clegg would be a natural as a scriptwriter for Ken Dodd. "What a lovely day, missus. What a lovely day for tossing a pancake blindfolded and getting a surprise on your upside."

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

I HAVE bought an old Volvo. I knew this day would come. Victoria Woods defined the onset of middle age as the moment you pass a display of Scholl sandals and think: "Mmm, they look comfy." The Volvo is very comfy, and very sensible. It also has a little pocket under the sun visor where you can keep that thing you're always losing. I wonder how many of my readers are suddenly thinking: "The sun visor, that's where I left it."

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

REJOICE, for scientists have rediscovered the Mediterranean oil beetle. It was thought to have become extinct 100 years ago but has been found in the south of England. It is a big beetle, measuring about one inch. Which reminds me of something I really should put on my Xmas list. Slippers.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Call to back Spitfire fund bid and raise £2m

A FORMER RAF serviceman from Walsall, who has launched a £2 million bid to bring an historic Spitfire back to the West Midlands, today issued a rallying cry for support.

David Treagger has set out on a mission to raise enough money to bring one of the iconic planes – recently discovered buried in Burma – back to Castle Bromwich where it was made.

Up to 36 Spitfires are believed to have been buried in 1945 at an airfield in Burma as the Second World War was drawing to a close.

Excavate

If they could be brought back to flying order it would double the number of working Spitfires in the world.



David Treagger needs to raise £2m to bring a Spitfire back home to Birmingham from Burma so it can be restored



Legend of the sky – a Spitfire in action. It was the Birmingham-made fighter plane that helped win the Battle of Britain during the Second World War but with a huge cost in men and machines

It is thought they were buried on the orders of Lord Louis Mountbatten in a bid to avoid the cost of shipping them back to Britain.

Aircraft enthusiast David Cundall, of Lincolnshire, has won permission to excavate the Spitfires and bring them back to the UK. The Burmese Government is set to get half of the Spitfires and Mr Treagger hopes to raise enough money to buy one from the Burmese.

He hopes to renovate it and bring it back to Castle Bromwich and has formed the Castle Bromwich Spitfire Return Restoration and Preservation Fund.

The 50-year-old, originally from Walsall but now living in Denmark, believes he will have to raise up to £2 million to make his dream a reality.

The father-of-two said: "In my own personal way, I have wanted to do this not only to thank all our crew who flew these wonderful aircraft but for those who died protecting our country in them.

"My intention is to raise the funds for this personally through numerous fundraising activities, then hopefully purchase and return one back home to its birthplace in Castle Bromwich.

"Once there, then we can restore this aircraft to flying condition to preserve it and keep the memory of these pilots alive by displaying it all over the country."

Mr Treagger, who attended Shire Oak School in Walsall Wood, added: "There has already been a lot of interest in this and lots of people have contacted me about it, even as far away as Canada."

Mr Treagger plans to return to the UK for six weeks soon to begin his fundraising campaign.

Customised cab keeps legend of trucker Stan on the road

THE MEMORY of one of the region's best-known businessmen will live on through when a tribute truck made in Willenhall in his honour takes to the road.

Stan Robinson, who started his family-run logistics business from one lorry in 1970, died in April this year. His Stafford-based firm now has a fleet of 190 vehicles.

His namesake company has now commissioned a customised HGV in his honour. The large blue and red lorry, a Super Space Cab tractor unit, has been made to include a variety of painstakingly painted-on images including pictures of Mr Robinson and a few of the vehicles that he restored himself.

Plate

This will ensure anyone who sees the lorry knows that Mr Robinson still lives on in the business, according to managing director at the firm Stan's son Mark.

The vehicle, which will also display Stan's personal number plate – SR2 – is being bought from Greenhous DAF in Willenhall.

Peter Ward at Greenhous DAF said: "Stan Robinson Ltd has been a fantastic customer of ours over the years, and we've built up a strong relationship with the team as the business has grown.

"We were very sad to hear of Stan's illness and passing, and privileged to be asked to get involved with such a special commission. Stan's logistics business has flourished over the past 40 years."

Stan Robinson Ltd is one of the largest family-owned logistics companies in the UK with more 300,000 square feet of warehouse space across its four UK sites.



Truck firm boss Stan Robinsons's son Mark in the painted tribute cab



A Stan Robinson ERF vehicle painted on the cab



A portrait of a young Stan



Haulier Stan Robinson

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Steel firm in move to home town

A £4.8 million boost has allowed a firm to relocate to its home town of Brownhills under expansion plans set to create up to six jobs.

Offshore Stainless Supplies Ltd, set up in 1999, has moved from Great Wyrley to a site almost double the size in Lichfield Road after receiving funding from commercial finance providers GE Capital.

Bosses say the financial backing will help expand the metal stockholding company, which has spent £1.5m on new machinery.

The firm was initially based at Maybrook Industrial Estate in Brownhills, before moving to Loades Business Park in Great Wyrley six years later.

Outgrew

The company employs 30 staff and is a stockholder, distributor and processor of specialist stainless steel to the offshore oil and gas, marine, transport and automotive industries.

Managing director Chris Joyce said: "We outgrew our 28,000 sq ft unit in Great Wyrley and have purchased a 50,000 sq ft unit. We are hoping now to stay in Brownhills for life.

"GE Capital has been very helpful giving us a lot of funding to invest. It's nice they saw the potential. We intend to grow the business and increase the profile of the company."

MP backs fraud bill

WALSALL South MP Valerie Vaz has backed a bill aimed at cracking down on social housing fraud.

She was on the committee which looked at provisions for the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Bill.

It is believed properties being unlawfully sub-let costs the taxpayer around £900 million a year.

Ms Vaz said: "I gave my backing to the Bill as it will free up social housing properties in Walsall and tackle the problem of unlawful subletting.

"Richard Harrington MP's Bill seeks to make the unlawful sub-letting of social housing a new criminal offence and brings in rights for local authorities to recoup any unlawful profits made.

"The most important aspect of this legislation is the freeing up of thousands of social housing properties for those who are waiting for a house and deserve one."



Just and selection of the 300 Fathr Christmas figures at Hilda and Harry's home



The outside view – Hilda and Harry Creaney with daughtersTracey (left) and Dawn

Let it glow this Christmas



Festive landmark –Hilda and Harry Creaney's home in Willenhall is like Santa's grotto after they went all out decorating it for Christmas as part of a 40 year family tradition

WITH more than 300 Santas, 100 snowmen, countless baubles and miles of tinsel, it's a grotto Father Christmas would be proud of.

Christmas crazy Hilda Creaney's semi-detached house has been a festive attraction in Willenhall for years.

People go out of their way to see her Las Vegas-style lights, a kaleidoscopic blaze of Santas, reindeer and stars.

And outside the front door stands a postbox which each year gets around 300 letters for Santa from children, all of which receive a reply. But few have seen the inside of the house in Walsall Street, which Hilda shares with her husband Harry.

The 70-year-old has more than 1,000 decorations up in the hallway and living room.

Santas, snowmen, penguins, angels and elves are arranged on the ceiling, walls and every flat surface, costing from 50p to £400.

Many figures are more than 3ft high and most are connected to the mains so that they light up when switched on.

There are also several elaborate clockwork scenes, such as a Santa's toy factory, which Hilda's son Carl brought home from America on his travels.

The retired social work assistant says: "I'm an electricians' nightmare but we've never had a blow-out yet.

"I love Christmas and I love to see the children's faces when they see what we've done here. The local nursery school come up to see the house and I always show them the crib in the hall and tell them that is what Christmas is really about."

Grotto

The Yuletide preparations start in the middle of November when the boxes of baubles, tinsel and other decorations are brought out of storage at a nephew's factory.

Putting the lights on the front of the house is a major operation which is carried out by Hilda's grandson Jamie and friends.

The interior of the family's cosy home is transformed into a Christmas grotto with the big switch-on taking place on the last Saturday in November. Then friends and family travel from Wales, Telford and Birmingham for a festive knees-up.

The tradition, which started nearly 40 years ago, was inspired by a Yuletide-themed picture which her three children coloured in.

Carl, 49 and a Walsall councillor, Tracey, 47, and Dawn, 37, and their friends worked for days on the artwork. Dad Harry was so impressed he mounted the picture in a glass-fronted box with a strip light and displayed it in the bay window.

Hilda says: "People ask whether I get depressed when it all has to come down and it's true that I do. But on the other hand, it's a chance to give the house a proper clean and that makes me feel good, too."

NEWS in brief

Helping families affected by cancer

WILLENHALL-based budget chain Poundland is helping families affected by cancer to enjoy the festive season, delivering food hampers full of essential seasonal supplies to Macmillan Cancer Support groups across the country.

Poundland staff at Willenhall Customer Support Centre donated their time to become Christmas elves, making up 100 hampers stocked full of treats and cupboard essentials for families affected by cancer.

Products were provided by Poundland's suppliers.

The hampers will be distributed through hospitals, hospices and Macmillan support groups and volunteers throughout for families and individuals affected by cancer to enjoy.

Golfers chipped in for Rosie's charity

A GOLF club has raised more than £3,500 for a charity set up in memory of an Aldridge girl.

Bloxwich Golf Club has raised £3,540 for Rosie's Helping Hands, which was set up in honour of 16-year-old Rosie Ross.

The cash was raised through various events including a curry night, quiz and sponsored cycle ride.

Restaurant wins newcomer prize

A WALSALL restaurant scooped the best newcomer in the Midlands title at the eighth annual British Curry Awards, held in London.

A star-studded line-up attended the event which saw Five Rivers A La Carte gain the accolade.

The top Midlands spice restaurant award went to Birmingham's Itihaas.

Carols and pies beside festive tree

THE community will join together for carol singing around the Christmas tree outside Rushall Library tomorrow (Friday) at 7pm.

After the carols mulled wine and mince pies will be served inthe Church of Christ the King, Lichfield Road, Rushall.

Seasonal cycling

CYCLE Touring Club Walsall holds its Christmas Ride on Saturday, December 29, from St James Church in Brownhills at 9.30am. Ten mile ride then mince pies and mulled wine.

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NEWS

Suspended jail sentence for supermarket thefts

A WAREHOUSE worker, who stole more than £7,000 worth of goods from the Brownhills supermarket where he worked, has been given a suspended prison sentence

Andrew Robins, of Springfields, Rushall, stole the items from Tesco over a 10-month period and intended to sell them at a car boot sale, Walsall Magistrates Court heard last week.

Miss Pushpa Sheemar, prosecuting, told how the crime came to light after Robins set off security alarms. When the father-of-two was leaving work on September 28 he had triggered the alarms and £309.70 worth of stolen stock was found in his rucksack.

Scanner

Police seized further goods worth £6,709 when they searched the 25-year-old's home several days later.

Miss Sheemar said: "Members of staff from Tesco attended the police station with a handheld barcode scanner. They confirmed the items were from Tesco."

She said Robins had worked at Tesco for seven years. He admitted one charge of theft between December 2011 and October 2012.

The court heard that he was now "extremely sorry". He was handed a 24-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, ordered to carry out 180 hours' unpaid work and pay £85 costs.

Sentencing Robins, District Judge Michael Morris told him: "Latterly you had been stealing from your employer. You had been hoarding the items at home with the intention of selling them eventually."

He said it was evident that some of his colleagues at Tesco had thought well of him but added: "You have cheated not only Tesco, but them as well. You are a thief."

Mr Morris made no order for compensation but warned Robins that his former employers Tesco may make a civil claim to recover its losses.

Veteran tells of war years



Veteran Arthur Jones meets pupils at Bentley West Primary School

PUPILS were given a flavour of life in the 1940s when a veteran recalled his memories of the Second World War.

More than 60 pupils at Bentley West Primary School, Walsall, took part in the Inspire Day.

During the event eight and nine-year-olds made Anderson bomb shelters using cardboard boxes, tin foil and paint alongside adult helpers.

They performed an Evacuation song before a talk was given by 86-year-old Arthur Jones, who was among army reinforcements after the Normandy landings turned the tide of war against Hitler.

Year 4 teacher Kathryn Seymour said the event was a great success, adding: "Our current topic is the Second World War and it just brought together everything we have been learning in class."

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NEWS

Care worker stole to pay drug debt

Helpful pupils at store



Lodge Farm pupils Nathan Hinks and Kelsie Rochelle, both aged 11, help Sainsbury's customer Louise Phipps, top, with her packing watched by teaching assistant Louise Marshall and Sam McInteggart

PUPILS packed dozens of bags at a supermarket in Walsall in exchange for donations in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Youngsters from Lodge Farm JMI School in Willenhall raised more than £100 by helping around 50 customers at Sainsbury's in Reedswood Way .

Teaching assistant Louise Marshall organised the event to coincide with International Volunteer Day.

A CARE home worker who stole from residents and colleagues to pay off a drug debt has been sentenced to 80 hours unpaid work.



Gemma Davis

Gemma Davis, aged 26, stole cash, wallets, purses, a memory stick and toiletries over about 12 months at Lakeview Care Home, Great Wyrley.

Police were called after £40 went missing. Her home in Abbotts Place, Bloxwich, was searched after cash was missed from a co-worker's purse. Police found items stolen from the home.

Davis admitted stealing goods and taking money from a colleague's purse

Mr John Peel, prosecuting, told Cannock Magistrates said she had worked at the care home since 2007.

Mr Mark Hemming, defending, said she carried out the thefts to pay a drug debt, after becoming addicted to cannabis.

He said: "She is and was addicted to cannabis. At that time she was using £70 of cannabis a week. This has since been reduced to £40.

"There was pressure put on her to repay her drugs debt. It was said if she didn't pay, they would start putting pressure on her mum. She has never been in trouble with the police before. She is a young lady who has a drug problem and wants to address that drugs problem."

Davis admitted seven counts of theft and was given 120 hours unpaid work, cut to 80 hours for an early guilty plea. A 12-month community order was made and she must pay £85 costs and £45 compensation.

Bench chairman Mr Martin Corden said breaches of trust were a serious matter, especially when victims were vulnerable people.

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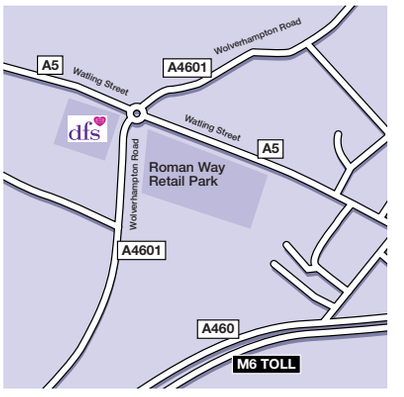
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NEWS

Deprived area hits the lottery jackpot

In tune with festive tradition



Aldridge School pupils, front from left, Lydia Methley and Ursula Langley, back, Oliver Smith, Harry Gregory and Jack Windsor

YOUNG musicians are tuning up to keep a 53-year-old Christmas tradition alive. Music students from Aldridge School perform at a carol concert tonight (Thursday).

The school orchestra and senior and junior choirs will be leading the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary of the Angels' Church, in Whetstone Lane, Aldridge.

The service is due to start at 7.30pm.

LOTTERY funding of £1 million has been awarded to Palfrey to help make it a better place to live.

Residents will help decide how the cash boost should be spent over the next decade.

Palfrey is one of 50 deprived areas across England to benefit from the Big Lottery Fund's Big Local programme.

Hateley Heath, in Sandwell, has also been granted a cash injection.

In Palfrey, residents and community groups will be able to apply for a slice of the money to fund projects that matter to them.

A panel will now be set up to work with people and groups in the area south of Walsall town centre around Broadway West, Weston Street, West Bromwich Street, Corporation Street and Wednesbury Road.

Share

An independent chairman is expected to be appointed to share out the money over the next 10 years.

Among the issues currently facing the Walsall South area are anti-social behaviour, the sex trade, improving educational achievement and road maintenance.

Walsall Council communities boss Councillor Ian Shires said: "This is a real opportunity for residents and local organisations to come together to pool their talent, ambitions, skills and energy to make a positive and lasting difference to their communities.

"As well as the money, residents will also receive training and support to help them identify priorities and develop a plan to bring about real improvements in the things that matter most to them."

Walsall Voluntary Action helped Walsall Council to win the money.

Chairman Carl Rice said: "I have no doubt it will have a huge impact on bringing people and groups together to build an even stronger and much improved local community."

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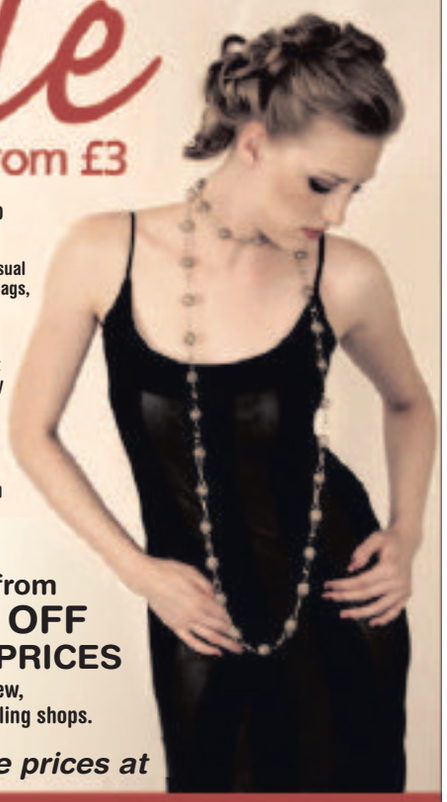
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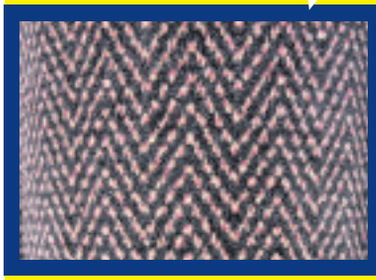
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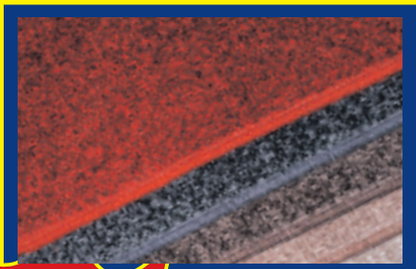
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29th Dec 9.30-5.30pm
Sun 30th Dec 10-4pm
31st Dec 10-5pm
1st Jan 10-5pm

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REVIEW



The panto cast including Nigel Ellacott as Dame Trot



Keith Harris and Orville



Panto villain Sherrie Hewson

Giant panto fun as little green duck steals show

Jack and the Beanstalk, Wolverhampton Grand

THERE is lots of fe-fi-fo-FUN in the Grand's giant panto Jack and the Beanstalk with plenty of laughs, outrageous costumes and toe-tapping pop songs in a feast of family entertainment.

The story about Jack the giant killer gets a makeover with spectacular sets and a scary ten foot tall ogre.

But there is no doubting the star of the show. It's been decades since ventriloquist Keith Harris and Orville the Duck were regulars on TV but the children immediately took to the little green duck. Even the mums and dads were singing along with the 30-year-old hit Orville's Song, performed in a medley with I Wish I Could Fly.

But the duck has plenty of comic competition. Day-zee the dancing cow was quite a moover and Cuddles the monkey's naughty jokes appealed to cheeky monkeys in the audience.

Jack's mother Dame Trot (panto regular Nigel Ellacott) nearly stole the show with a Black Country revamp of Barry Manilow's Copocabana, "at the market, at Bilston market". The Dame's bizarre outfits included a deck chair affair with a cheeky secret and a full tea party turned into a dress.

Any Dream Will Do finalist Ben James-Ellis was a suitably dashing, tuneful and good humoured hero and Sophie Brooke-Ford was eminently woo-able as the Princess Apricot.

Delightful

The musical highlights came from soul singing Fairy Fortune, X-Factor finalist Niki Evans. The Tamworth songstress is a star turn and her version of Don't Stop Believin' would be enough to persuade any would-be hero to stop having second thoughts and scoot up a beanstalk.

It was hard to hate villainess Lady Temple-Savage as glamorous Benidorm star Sherrie Hewson was such good fun, especially when adopting a ridiculous 'Swedish' accent and disguise to con Jack out of his cow. She was reunited with former Coronation Street co-star Ken Morley, as the bumbling King Crumble, and the pair conjured their old magic for a delightful routine singing daft Chitty ditty Chu-Chi Face.

Add energetic dancers, a beanstalk that grows before your eyes and a brief blast of current novelty hit Gangnam Style, and you've got the elements for a festive family treat. The only element missing was the unpredictable panto convention of bringing members of the audience onto the stage.

But it's that fluffy little green bird everyone will be Tweeting about. You'd be quackers to miss Orville. The panto continues at the Grand until January 20.

Leon Burakowski

Do You Value 'Word of Mouth'?

You already know that asking friends is the best way to find great restaurants, dentists, hairdressers and anything local.

Well, here at thebestofwalsall, word of mouth just got louder! Every business that is featured on our site has been visited and checked out by us and recommended by other local people, so you can use them with confidence knowing that they truly are one of the best at what they do.

Our website is regularly viewed by tens of thousands of local people each month as it contains all people need to find locally. This includes the most recommended businesses in Walsall, testimonials from local people, money savings offers, events, and information about what is going on in Walsall.

Below are just a few of our recommended businesses. To find out more about them and other local gems visit **www.thebestof.co.uk/walsall**

As recommended on thebestofwalsall
www.thebestof.co.uk/walsall

LIGHTING

Icon Lighting
245 Green Lane, Walsall.
WS2 8HS
01922 626240
"Fantastic choice of lighting...the quality is top notch" Stephen T

HOTEL

Park Inn Birmingham
Walsall, Hotel, Bescot Crescent,
Walsall, WS1 4SE
01922 639100
"The staff were very helpful, polite and cheerful. Room was clean and comfortable, food was delicious" *P.R.*

CARPETS AND RUGS

1 Anchor Road, Aldridge,
Walsall. WS9 8PT
01922 456457
"From the moment you walk into the shop to the time you leave, 100% first class service. Unbeatable prices and top quality products." *K A P*

VETS

387 Veterinary Centre
387 Walsall Rd, Great Wyrley,
Walsall, WS6 6DP
01922 411755
"We have been registered with 387 Vets since shortly after they opened. The care and attention given to our cat and dog is exemplary. Our cat Eric is an old man now and would not have been here today were it not for Hamish and the girls. I cannot recommend this Vets highly enough. They are definitely the best in the area.
" Lionel C

ELECTRICAL & SECURITY SERVICES

A.C. Electrical and
Security Services
Andrew Close, Short Heath,
Walsall. WV12 5PL.
01902 411717
"All work completed quickly, efficiently and left everything tidy" *Nick G*

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Unit 10-15, Reaymer Close,
Bloxwich, Walsall
01922 430914
"Fantastic choice of fabrics and very well fitted blinds. Very impressed" *Emma B*

HAIRDRESSERS

Hairdressers
30/32 Portland Road,
Aldridge, Walsall. WS9 8PZ
01922 451073
"Lovely salon. Great hair, advice and service." *Vandana M*

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Walsall, WS4 1HA
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"Arrived on time. Good job done with no mess. Completely satisfied." Stanley B

BABY WEAR & ACCESSORIES

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259 Blakenhall Lane, Walsall,
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"I bought a push chair from here and had very good service. I was impressed by the choice and the service." Stuart R

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Style Haircare
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Aldridge, Walsall, WS0 0EZ
01922 451459
"Colleen understands my hair. So pleased. Fab styling and colouring. Always gives me something different. This business really stands out from the others." Kate M

INDIAN RESTAURANT

Shireen's
Croft House, 41 High Street,
Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8NL
01922 279330
"My visit to Shireen's was exceptional. Food was excellent, staff and surroundings were first class, and a most enjoyable evening. Everybody must try." Alison B

WEDDING DRESS MAKER/ WEDDING ACCESSORIES

Dresses and Dreamz
01922 279584
"I would recommend Dresses and Dreamz because they are amazing. Very professional. Great work."
Laura D

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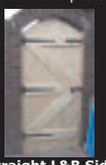
LARGE RANGE OF COMPOSITE DOORS

Are you struggling to find that extra special gift for Christmas...

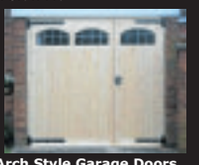
Why not treat your family or friends to a new set of Garage Doors, Driveway Gates or Side Gate!
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31st January 2013



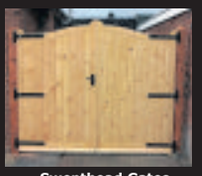
Suffolk Style Gates From £350 fully fitted includes ironmongery & posts Price based on 3ft x 7ft



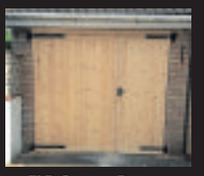
Arch/Straight L&B Side Gate
From £175 fully fitted including ironmongery & posts
Price based on 78in x 30in



Arch Style Garage Doors
From £595 fully fitted including ironmongery & frame Price based on 6ft 6in x 7ft and 7ft x 7ft



Swepthead Gates
From £550 fully fitted including ironmongery & frame
Price based on 7ft x 6ft



FLB Garage Doors
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Price based on 6ft 6in x 7ft and 7ft x 7ft

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CLUB NEWS

Christmas party ends guild year

CHASETOWN TWG

AN EVENING of festive fun was enjoyed at the last meeting of the year, when the Christmas party was held.

It was a memorable year, with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games. It was also a year in which members experienced and enjoyed speakers ranging from bee-keeping to physiotherapy, from a Pam Ayres impersonator to the history of Sister Dora.

They enjoyed outings to Highclere Castle, The Severn Valley Railway and Arthur Price at Lichfield, with one remaining, a trip to Tatton Park to experience a "Dickensian Christmas".

In celebration of the Queen's 60 years, there was a jubilee strawberry tea, stalls were manned at the Hammerwich Jubilee celebrations and a barbecue were held with money raised for the guild's chosen charity, the "Alzheimer's Cafe" at Chase Terrace.

A cheque for £1,000 was presented to representatives of the Lichfield Stroke Club, last year's chosen charity.

The walking group have not had it so good this year with the inclement weather but he craft group has gone from strength to strength.

The new year will start with a skittles night early in January. The first meeting will be on January 25 at the WI hall, Hammerwich, at 7.30pm, with a talk on Erasmus Darwin.

Santa sleighs them on annual town tour



Santa in his sleigh touring Rugeley and surrounds

RUGELEY LIONS AND ROTARY CLUBS

SANTA Claus has come to town, powered by his team from Rugeley Lions and Rotary Clubs.

He is making a flying visit to see as many young and old children as he can before Christmas.

His second week of touring the district took in the Beeches area of Etching Hill, followed by Western Springs, Springfields, Chadsfield and a first time trip to the new estates in Armitage.

Contributions

Santa was then finally home via Prospect Village/Haselslade and Upper Longdon.

Any financial contributions will find its way back as presents to support local people who believe in the magic of Father Christmas.

Speaker's travelling tales

CANNOCK TOWNSWOMEN

AT the November meeting, chairman Hilda Hathaway was pleased to welcome two new members, Savi Chandy and Urmila Sathia.

A letter of thanks has been received from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham for the guild's donation of £150 to the children's unit.

Following a sponsored walk which raised £165, a cheque was sent to the Princess Royal Carer's Trust.

Speaker for the evening was Peter Martin who gave a slide show of his travels in India and Nepal. The background music and wonderful camera work made one feel part of the experience, giving members a real insight into the culture and daily life of the people.

The guild meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. at St. Luke's Primary School, New Penkridge Road. There is disability access and parking at the front of the building.

For further information call 01543 506347.

recycle for Walsall

Walsall Council

Your Christmas Rubbish and Recycling arrangements 2012/13



Changes to your rubbish bin collection service (grey bin)

Normal collection day	Your next collection will be
Tuesday 25th December 2012	Thursday 27th December 2012
Wednesday 26th December 2012	Friday 28th December 2012
Thursday 27th December 2012	Thursday 3rd January 2013 with up to 3 bags of additional rubbish
Friday 28th December 2012	Friday 4th January 2013 with up to 3 bags of additional rubbish
Tuesday 1st January 2013	Tuesday 8th January 2013 with up to 3 bags of additional rubbish
For operational reasons, additional bagged rubbish may be collected by a different crew.	

Changes to your recycling bin collection service (green bin)

Normal collection day	Your next collection will be
Tuesday 25th December 2012	Thursday 27th December 2012
Wednesday 26th December 2012	Friday 28th December 2012
Thursday 27th December 2012	Thursday 3rd January 2013
Friday 28th December 2012	Friday 4th January 2013
Tuesday 1st January 2013	Tuesday 8th January 2013
As green bin collections are weekly over the winter period, no additional bags of recycling will be collected. Please check our top 20 leaflet to see what can go in your green recycling bin.	

Please check your new bin collection calendar or visit our website for your schedule for the next year.

Your garden waste collection service (brown bin)

There will be no garden waste collections from 3rd December 2012 until week commencing 11th March 2013. Please check your bin collection calendar for your first brown bin collection of the spring. Alternatively contact us on the details below.

Your local tips

Local tips (Household Waste Recycling Centres) will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Open as usual on all other days. Shoes/textiles/batteries/wood/crockery and tiles/DVDs can all be recycled at your local tip.

Poor weather conditions

If we can't carry out normal collections due to poor weather conditions we will keep you updated by local radio, our website, facebook and twitter. We will also leave a recorded message on our contact centre number 01922 653344.

Should you require further information:

Telephone: 01922 653344
Website: www.walsall.gov.uk
Email streetpride@walsall.gov.uk

Season's greetings from Walsall Council!

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SALE STARTS 27TH DECEMBER 10:30 AM



New to store 2150 pocket memory sprung divan set. This bed is the bees knees at only £799.99 (drawers are extra)

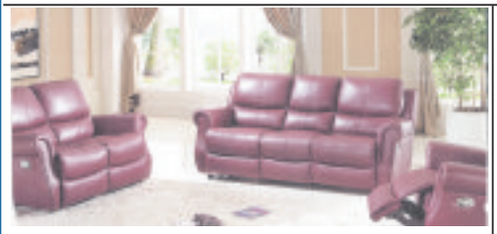


Bedroom Furniture in white - quality at its best



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Vivosa Full Reclining Suite in Brown Leather outstanding value at Only £1499.99



Wendy 3+1+1 Italian Leather

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Merry Christmas to all from WS Furnishings

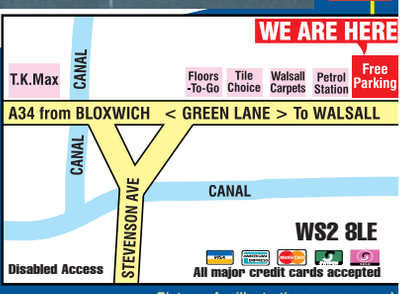
Disabled Access

Open
27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st - 10am - 5pm
New Year's Day - CLOSED

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

A CLEANER AND GREENER PLACE

WE KNOW that many of our residents recycle well and we would like to thank you for helping us in our efforts to make the borough a cleaner and greener place for everyone to live and work.

Unfortunately though, a small minority of residents are not recycling correctly and, as a result, a number of bins are being rejected each week This could cost the council hundreds of thousands of pounds a year unless we do something about it because of the cost to landfill the rejected waste. Clearly this is not giving our council tax payers value for money.



We have tried hard to explain how the recycling system works in Walsall by sending every resident a series of leaflets, as well as placing stickers on their bins. Street Pride staff are also visiting streets with the recycling crews to talk to residents.

The message appears to be getting through and the number of bins we are not taking because they contain items we can't recycle has fallen significantly.

One of the big problems we have is people putting food waste into their green recycling bin, including takeaway boxes with food still inside them. Any food waste you have should go in your grey bin.

Collect

Christmas is just around the corner and we want to make sure we collect as many bins as possible. To do that, we need your help. We have tried hard to make this message as clear as possible but realise that the wrong material can still sometimes end up in the wrong bin. For this reason, we have included in this advert examples of the things you should put in your grey bin as well as those that can be placed in your green bin.

If you're unclear about why your bin has not been collected or what you can and cannot recycle, ring the council's Contact Centre on 01922 653344 or go to www.walsall.gov.uk for advice.

Please use this guide to help you put the right thing in the right bin. If in doubt, use your grey bin and, if you need advice, ring the council's Contact Centre on 01922 653344.

Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Cllr Tom Ansell
Portfolio Holder for
Environment and Transport



Your bin collections

Important information from your council

Please cut out and keep

recycle for Walsall

Walsall Council



Your green bin

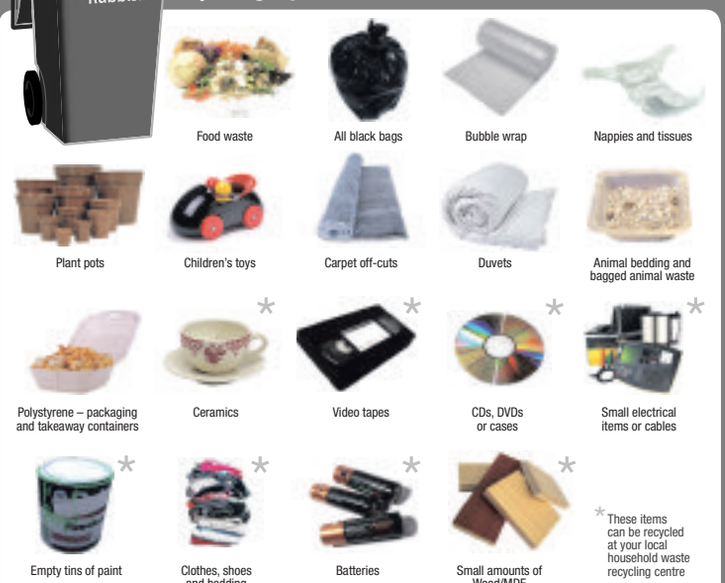
Only put items in your **green** bin that are detailed here.





Your grey bin

Here are some of the main things to put in your **grey** bin.



For further information contact **01922 653344** or visit **www.walsall.gov.uk**

VIDEO GAMES

Mickey to the rescue

Disney Epic Mickey 2 The Power of Two (Disney, U)

A 3D platform game drawing upon Disney heritage, with vintage cartoon look and nods to classic movies, is let down by frustrating game play.

The sequel to Epic Mickey finds the world's most popular mouse returning to the Wasteland to help Oswald the Rabbit face a new threat, and again picks up his magic paintbrush to redraw his world.

The trickiness of some simple tasks is annoying and restricted camera angles don't help. But determined Disney devotees will find some delights. **LB**



Oswald and Mickey team up to save a world of toons

Duty calls for action

Call of Duty Black Ops 2 (Activision, 18)

BIGGER and more brutal, the top shooter delivers plenty of fast-paced action.

The campaign is confusing, except maybe for CoD veterans, switching between father and son US soliders in conflicts from the 1970s to 2025. War zones include Angola, Afghanistan, Pakistan (courting controversy) and a futuristic battle for Los Angeles. The zombie modes are a blast and the game excels in multiplayer action. Developers Treyarch obviously know how to deliver for CoD fans.

Assassin's Creed III (Ubisoft, 18)

There is plenty of good looking historical action in this latest episode of the stealthy slayer franchise, which sees our hero accessing his genetic memories to time travel to the colonial America of the 1700s.

The background sci-fi plot is tangental to the action after the first assassination in a London theatre. Then hero Desmond's ancestor makes an eventful trip across the Atlantic to the new frontier where revolution is erupting.

You will feel like you've emigrated to the New World by the time you've put in the hours required to complete the tasks. The vast detailed setting is stunning (with multiplayer the game takes up two discs) but you may be too busy to explore, what with hunting, fighting and playing tavern games. ACIII demands patience but fans of the epic story will be rewarded.

Both games reviewed on Xbox 360. **LB**

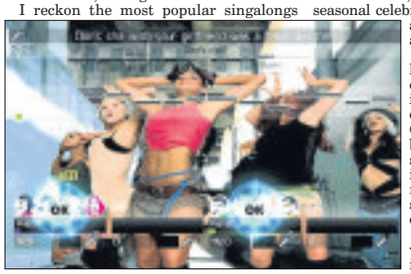
Sims, seasons and songs

Everyone Sing (O-Games, 12)

THIS a good game to get the party going this Christmas and available for PS3, Wii and Xbox 360. Karaoke game Everyone Sing supports up to four microphones, so singers can perform as individuals or as a group and even choose whether to sing lead or backing.

The impressive 35 song tracklist (with videos in the background) features recent hits from Nicki Minaj, The Wanted and Jessie J, plus old favourites from A-Ha and Lionel Richie, among others.

I reckon the most popular singalongs after a few glasses of wine will be Don't Cha by The Pussycat Dolls and Michael Buble's Haven't Met You Yet.



Don't Cha want to join Pussycat Dolls in Everyone Sing

The Sims 3 Seasons Expansion Pack (EA,12)

It always seems to be a sunny day in the virtual world of The Sims 3, at least until the arrival of this expansion pack as EA add ever more detail to the popular PC title.

This time they bring the weather, as your Sims face rain, snow and hail. There are also seasonal celebrations, including Christmas and Halloween, for your creations to experience.

Why should your Sims have life easy? Now they can catch a cold, start to freeze if inappropriately dressed or even get struck by lightning. On the plus side they can build an igloo or learn to snowboard, or go to the beach in summer. And with quirkiness typical of the last expansion pack, Supernatural, they could be kidnapped by aliens.

In the limited edition version they can also chill out in the Ice Lounge. **Leon Burakowski**

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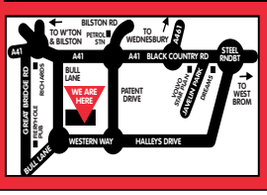
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Sunday 30th - CLOSED
Monday 31st December - 9am - 4pm
Tuesday 1st January - CLOSED
Wednesday 2nd January - Normal Hours

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87 Blackwood Road, Streetly.
10am-1pm

Coalpool Pharmacy,
140 Dartmouth Avenue,
Walsall. 10am-4pm

Boxing Day Pharmacies

Boots UK Ltd.,
Park Street, Walsall.
8.30am-5.45pm

Sainsbury's Pharmacy,
Reedswood Way, Walsall.
10am-5pm

Asda Pharmacy,
George Street, Walsall.
9am-5pm

Asda Pharmacy,
Woodall Street, Bloxwich.
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DVD & BLU-RAY REVIEWS

Prehistoric pirates invade the Ice Age



All at sea – the Ice Age crew are pirate prey in the latest prehistoric comic romp

Ice Age 4: Continental Drift (U)

ANOTHER fun movie in the animated Ice Age saga starts with the manic prehistoric squirrel Scrat once again pursuing the elusive acorn. You've got to love a trier but this time Scrat's exploits set off a chain reaction that reshapes the frozen world.

This has a big impact on the multi-species family of animals we met in the previous three movies. These include the wooly mammoths, Manny, Ellie and rebellious daughter Peaches, also sabre-toothed tiger Diego and dopey sloth Sid who now has his crotchety granny to care for.

Manny, Sid, Diego and Granny find themselves adrift on an iceberg and encounter pirates led by nasty ape Captain Gutt (voiced by Peter Dinklage from Game of Thrones) and Nick Frost (from Shaun of the Dead) as his henchman, or rather, henchseal. Also add new characters voiced by Jennifer Lopez, Niki Minaj and rapper Drake.

It's the best-looking Ice Age so far, the vibrant colours and images particularly good on Blu-Ray with the 3D version including eye-popping moments with fish bone swords and Gutt's looming face. Humourwise it is aimed squarely at the youngsters

Both DVD and Blu-Ray feature a music section including The Sid Shuffle whilst Blu-Ray offers lots of exclusive extras.

Leon Burakowski

Seeking A Friend For The End Of The World (15)

THE world was due to end on December 21 and, if you are reading this after that date, it appears the Mayan calendar's abrupt ending did not mean apocalypse

However, the world is ending in this dark comedy starring Steve Carell and Keira Knightley as neighbours thrown together by the imminent end of days. An asteroid is on a collision course with Earth and the final attempt to deflect it has failed, leaving three weeks to impact.

So that's it for mankind, though a radio announcer describes our fate more succinctly as insurance salesman Dodge (Carell) hears the news and is promptly dumped by his wife.

As riots ravage the city, Dodge and his flakey English neighbour Penny (Knightley) hit the road together, he in search of his high school sweetheart and she is looking for the last flight home.

Lorene Scafaria's directorial debut is an off-beat blend of rom-com and road movie with gallows humour laced with poignancy. Knightley stays the right side of annoying and Carell adds to his repertoire of likeable losers.

Available on DVD and Blu-Ray. **LB**

Nostalgia for 1980s sci-fi fun

ENJOY nostalgia with the first Blu-Ray releases of 1980s family favourites **Flight Of The Navigator (U)** and **Short Circuit (PG)**.

Flight Of The Navigator wasn't a hit at the cinemas but found a big following on VHS. It's a fast-paced sci-fi action story about an American boy who returns home after a mishap in the woods and discovers he has been missing for eight years.

It turns out he was kidnapped by the invisible occupant of a UFO but makes a deal to help alien intelligence Max, who calls the lad 'Navigator', if he will return him home to 1978.

Disney had originally been approached to make this but it went to another film company, who hired Grease director Randal Kleiser (who gives a commentary). Rumour has it that this cult favourite, featuring an early role for Sex and the City's Sarah Jessica Parker, is to be remade soon.

Short Circuit was made in the wake of ET and features a robot, Number Five (surely an ancestor of WALL-E), that develops a personality after being struck by a bolt of lightning. It goes on the run from the US Army. Ally Sheedy discovers the big-eyed 'bot and determines to persuade Five's inventor, Steve Guttenburg, that the runaway is more than just a machine.

It's a bit corny and the tech looks very dated but that just adds to Short Circuit's retro charm. **LB**



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MEMORY LANE



Sunbeam cars gathered for the unveiling of a blue plaque on the site in Penn



The racing car Toodles V at Brooklands, where it broke eight world records



Where the work took place – the Sunbeam racing car workshop in 1922



Coatalen, centre, examining the Sunbeam Bomber in 1917 at the airfield in Castle Bromwich

Days when Sunbeam raced ahead in Grand Prix stakes

by Alec Brew

FOR more than 60 years Britain has dominated Grand Prix manufacturing, but it was not always thus.

In the early days it was French cars which led the way, and, in the days before the World Championship, it was winning the French Grand Prix which was recognised as the pinnacle of motor-racing achievement.

The first British car to win the French Grand Prix, in 1923, was made right here in Wolverhampton, in Sunbeam's Blakenhall factory, but it's designer was a Frenchman, Louis Coatalen.

He was a Breton, born on September 11, 1879, and worked for a number of French car manufacturers before arriving in England in 1900 to work for the Crowden Company, and then becoming chief engineer at Hillman in Coventry.

In 1909 he was recruited by the Sunbeam Motor Car Co in Blakenhall, to be their chief engineer, and immediately planned to enter motor-racing. He began designing purpose-built racing cars, which led to the first major triumph, a win in the 1912 Coupe de l'Auto in Dieppe, Sunbeams coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd, eclipsing and astonishing the major European manufacturers.

In 1912 Coatalen also designed his first aero-engine a 150hp side valve V8, followed by a 225 hp V12, which he first tested in a specially-built racing car named Toodles V.

In October 1913, this car, at Brooklands, broke eight world endurance speed records in a hour and a half. There is no doubt that Coatalen was a talented, even brilliant engineer, but he was not afraid of copying others.

Devious

During 1913 Peugeot cars with twin overhead camshafts swept the board in three litre racing, and by some devious means one of these found its way to the drawing room of Coatalen's home, Waverley House on Goldthorn Hill. Here, Sunbeam mechanics stripped it down to discover its secrets, and for 1914 Sunbeam also featured twin overhead camshafts, as did the new aero-engines he designed at the start of the War.

Sunbeam was a major supplier of aero-engines during the War and also built more than 600 aircraft, including just one of its own design the single-engine Sunbeam Bomber.

All the engines were officially called Sunbeam-Coatalen engines, but after the War they were rather eclipsed by Rolls-Royce and Napier designs.

Coatalen turned to his great ambition, to win the French Grand Prix. The Sunbeam company merged with Darraq and Talbot and Coatalen became a Director of the resulting STD Motors.

In 1923 a Sunbeam finally won the French Grand Prix, driven by Henry Seagrave, and would have won the following year but for technical problems. Coatalen also produced three different cars to break the World Land Speed Record but Sunbeam began to experience financial difficulties, and in 1934 closed down.

By that time Louis Coatalen had returned to his native France, though he had taken British citizenship. He lived there through the War and died in 1962. He had brought great fame to the Sunbeam company, and to Wolverhampton, his adopted home for over 20 years.



Louis Coatalen , then aged 33, in 1912

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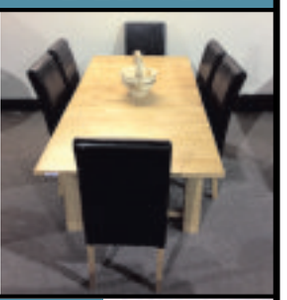
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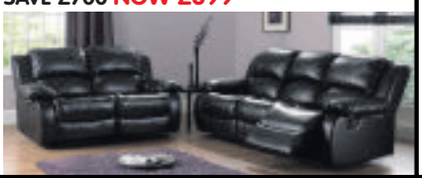
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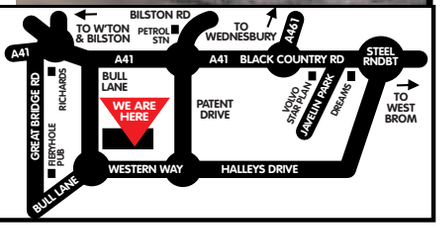


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LETTERS

Legion offer help

THE good people of Aldridge will be pleased to know that the proceeds of the Poppy Appeal in their district have this year totalled £33,042.83 so far and there is still a bit more money to come. Not yet quite up to the total of last year of over £36,000.

The Aldridge Branch of the Royal British Legion wish to give their grateful thanks to all those in the Aldridge district who have contributed and, in particular, thank the Rotary Club of Aldridge who supplied many of the helpers and who greatly assisted in the collections and the counting of the money.

Where does this money go? Almost all the Poppy Appeal proceeds are spent on the welfare of all ex-service people in any conflicts and their dependants. If there are any such in the Aldridge area who are unable themselves to finance the refurbishment and repair and redecoration of the homes, or who have other problems, they should get in touch with branch welfare officer Mr Bob Walker (0121 352 1238) who will assist them in making a claim.

The Royal British Legion also has holiday homes at seaside resorts and, subject to certain conditions, elderly ex-service people can enjoy a holiday.

There is also a man "Poppy Calls" who can call in his van and do minor repair work that would otherwise cost ex-service people money.

If any ex-service people wish to have such assistance they should get in touch with Mr Bob Walker or myself.

MR C D PARTRIDGE MBE
President of Aldridge branch
of the Royal British Legion

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Zero tolerance for tips after bin gets sticker

AT the risk of prolonging an already protracted debate about bin collections, I've now reached the point where I'm compelled to add my two penneth.

My green bin was one of many in the area to receive the sticker of shame. Having gone through it item by item I'm at a loss to see why, and can only assume that the bin men in question were hallucinating. I've transferred all of its perfectly recyclable contents to the general waste bin – so congratulations Walsall Council on your contribution to the environment.

In future my green bin will be reserved for newspapers (assuming that having completed the Chronicle crosswords in Biro doesn't contaminate them).

I suggest that others who feel aggrieved at the "zero-tolerance crackdown" on recycling might think about taking a similar zero-tolerance approach to dishing out Christmas tips this year.

DR PAUL MCDONALD
Walstead Road
Walsall

Football research

MAY I appeal to the readership for help in my research into the very old football teams from the Aston, Birmingham, Wednesbury and Walsall districts.

I mean by very old, those Victorian teams which played during the 1880s and until the First World War when many of them folded due to players having been killed in action.

The particular teams I am interested in are: Aston Victoria, Aston Shakespeare, Wednesbury Strollers, Aston Unity, Hednesford Swifts, Crosswell's (Oldbury), Warwick County (Edgbaston), Lozells FC, Unity Gas (Saltley), Smethwick Carriage Works FC and Wednesbury Old Park FC.

Do any of your readers possess any photographs of any of these teams, or can tell me the colours they played in?

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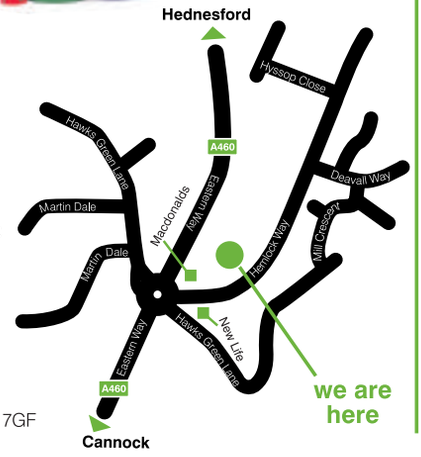
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BOOKS

Judge this book by the cover



JM Barrie's Peter Pan – the Cath Kidston edition

Children's Fiction

THIS is a book that you will want to judge by its cover – the Cath Kidston edition of JM Barrie's classic children's story Peter Pan (Puffin, paperback, £20) in a lovely retro London sights slipcase.

It's a high quality production of a timeless tome, one that will make a perfect keepsake and a stylish edition to any bedroom bookcase.

The Gods of ancient Greece and Rome intervene in the modern world in Rick Riordan's stories and its a dangerous life for their modern and streetwise Demi-God offspring. Fans of Percy Jackson (son of Poseidon) and Anabeth Chase (daughter of Athena) will thoroughly enjoy **The Mark of Athena (Puffin, hardback, £12.99)**, the third book in the Heroes of Olympus series. It's another epic with the Demi Gods heading to Rome in order to halt the Earth Goddess Gaia... but be prepared for a cliffhanger ending.

German children's author Cornelia Funke, creator of Inkheart, sets her latest story in England, where a boy is confronted by vengeful ghosts when at a boarding school. But poor haunted Jon and his resourceful friend Ella fight back by enlisting a ghost to catch a ghost in **Ghost Knight (Orion, hardback, £9.99)**, a ripping yarn in which a medieval feud spills over into the modern day.

Adult Fiction

Comedian, presenter, author and playwright Sandi Toksvig's warmth translates into her historical novel **Valentine Grey (Virago, hardback, £16.99)** about two people who push against the strict gender and sexual boundaries of the Victorian age.

Raised in India, the heroine rebels against the 'corsetted' constraints of British society and offers to step into the army boots of her beloved cousin Reggie, a homosexual in an age when such love was forbidden, after he is earmarked for the Boer War. So far so Mulan but Valentine is an engaging character and the horrors of a half-forgotten colonial war are brought to life.

The shadow of the Titanic disaster is cast over the life of a wealthy Bostonian spinster in **The House of Velvet and Glass (Penguin, paperback, £7.99)** by Katherine Howe. Tormented by the loss of her mother and sister, Sybil Allston turns to spiritualism and then to an old flame in an attempt to distinguish between trickery and the supernatural. Family secrets are revealed as the malign influence of opium takes hold in this well accomplished novel.

Best known for his teen horror fiction Darren Shan has created an adult crime thriller **Lady Of The Shades (Orion, hardback, £12.99)**. His London-set story has a strong supernatural strand as his horror writer protagonist is literally haunted by his past as he comes into conflict with a gangster over a mysterious woman.

Non-fiction

Witty with a finely tuned sense of the ridiculous, Danny Baker's first volume of autobiography **Going to Sea in a Sieve (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, hardback, £18.99)** takes him from his happy childhood on a south London council estate to pop journalism in the early 1980s and a strange encounter with Michael Jackson. Presumably his radio career and recent fight with cancer will be dealt with in a further volume. In the meantime this a good read for anyone with an interest in English popular culture during the 1970s and 80s. Baker makes for very good company.

Christmas can be a fraught time of year and counsellor Mike Fisher gives commonsense tips on how to stop the red mist descending with suggestions drawn from Buddhist philosophy in **Mindfulness & The Art of Managing Anger (Leaping Hare Press, hardback, £7.99)**.

The exploration of Mars by the Curiosity Rover has revived interest in space and masters of the manual, Haynes, have superbly detailed titles for all 'astronuts'. Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon but Apollo 15 Commander David R Scott was the first to drive on its surface, in 1971, two years after Armstrong's "first step". Find out about the Lunar Roving Vehicles (LRVs) and the men who drove them in **Lunar Rover Owner's Workshop Manual (Haynes, hardback, £21.99)**.

The International Space Station Owner's Workshop Manual (Haynes, hardback, £21.99) tells the story of Nasa's second greatest achievement after the lunar landings, working with the Russians and others to keep a permanent human presence in Earth orbit.

Sober and scientific as Haynes are, they are prone to flights of fancy of the geekiest kind, such as the **Klingon Bird of Prey Owner's Workshop Manual (Haynes, hardback, £15.99)**. Written in English and Klingon, this is a must for Star Trek fans as it details the warship capabilities of the intergalactic bad boys.

Leon Burakowski

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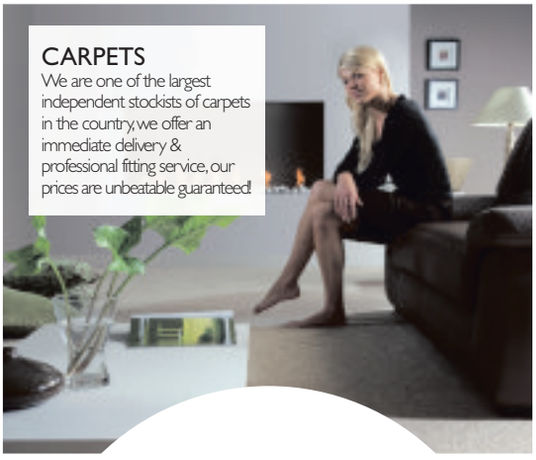
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CHRISTMAS TV DECEMBER 22

BBC1



Bruce and Tess get ready for the Strictly Dancing final, 7pm

6.00 Breakfast A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features. Including NewsWatch at 7.45. (C) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** James Martin is joined by chefs and celebrity guests for the cookery show, also featuring highlights from the BBC archives and wine choices for the dishes prepared in the studio. (C) **11.30 TBA 12.00 BBC News; Regional News and Weather** (C) **12.15 Football Focus** Dan Walker previews the weekend's action. (C) **1.00 Live Equestrian** The Olympia International Horse Show. Clare Balding presents coverage of the sixth day of the event at the Olympia Grand Hall in London, featuring the World Cup show jumping event. (C) **4.30 Final Score** Gabby Logan presents a round-up of this afternoon's results from the Premier League, Football League and Scotland. (C) **5.20 BBC News; Regional News and Weather** (C) **5.40 A Question of Sport** Light-hearted quiz, hosted by Sue Barker. (C)

BBC2



The Mystery of Edwin Drood, psychological thriller

6.00 CBeebies 7.05 CBBC 12.00 FILM: Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993) The Pumpkin King of Halloween Town tires of being scary and decides to take over Christmas. Stop-motion animated fantasy, with the voices of Chris Sarandon and Catherine O'Hara. (C) **1.10 FILM: The Sword in the Stone (1963)** The wizard Merlin takes the future King Arthur under his wing and teaches him the ways of the world. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Ricky Sorenson and Karl Swenson. (C) **2.30 Nigellissima — An Italian Inspired Christmas** Nigella Lawson prepares dishes for a Christmas party with an Italian twist, including Parmesan shortbreads and turkey breast stuffed with sausage and marsala-steeped cranberries. (C) (R) **3.30 FILM: The Game Plan (2007)** An American football star learns he has a daughter and struggles to cope with balancing fatherhood and his sporting career. Family comedy, with Dwayne Johnson and Madison Pettis. (C) HH **5.15 The Toys That Made Christmas** Robert Webb takes a light-hearted look back at Christmases past through the toys people played with and loved over the years, including Fuzzy-Felt, Spirograph, Barbie and Meccano. (C) (R)

ITV1



Slade's Merry Christmas Everybody is in the running, 8pm

5.30 ITV Morning News (T) **6.00 CITV 9.25 ITV News** (T) **9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** The host takes his successful talk-show stateside. (T) **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** The host takes his successful talk-show stateside. (T) **11.20 Murder, She Wrote** Jessica tries to ascertain whether four sisters are guilty of killing their wealthy father to benefit from a $100million inheritance. Drama, starring Angela Lansbury. (T) (R) **12.20 ITV News and Weather;** Weather. (T) **12.35 Holiday Home Sweet Home** Lisa Faulkner visits a surf school in Cornwall. (T) **1.35 Holiday Home Sweet Home** Lisa Faulkner visits Cornwall, where she receives a lesson in how to market holiday properties, and there is a look at award-winning self-catering cottages in Devon. (T) **2.35 Steppin' Out with Katherine Jenkins** A cabaret show with the classical singer and star guests. (T) (R) **3.50 You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates more camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile-phone footage, including a beagle's battle with a dishwasher and a teenager taking on a praying mantis. (T) (R) **4.20 Central News and Weather;** Weather. (T) **4.50 FILM: Back to the Future Part III (1990)** Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Michael J Fox. (T)

Channel 4



Four Christmases with Reese Witherspoon and Robert Duval

6.05 Sali Mali Jackdaw helps Sali Mali when she gets the flu. (T) (R) **6.10 The Hoobs** The friends visit Peep gardens. (T) (R) **6.35 The Hoobs** Iver wants to ride in a police car. (T) (R) **7.00 The Enduroman Arch to Arc Triathlon 7.30 TBA 7.55 The Morning Line** (T) **8.55 T4: Everybody Loves Raymond** Part one of two. Marie surprises the family. (T) (R) **9.30 T4: Frasier** Roz asks Frasier to narrate a documentary. (T) (R) **10.00 FILM: T4: Space Chimps (2008)** Premiere. Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Andy Samberg. (T) HH **11.45 T4: The Big Bang Theory** Priya asks Leonard to spend less time with Penny. (T) (R) **12.10 T4: The Big Bang Theory** Sheldon's online gaming account is hacked. (T) (R) **12.40 T4: The Simpsons** Homer becomes head of the local Mafia. (T) (R) **1.15 T4: The Simpsons** Bart becomes a jazz drummer. (T) (R) **1.45 Channel 4 Racing** (T) **3.50 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special** (T) (R) **4.20 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special** Former Big Brother contestant Nick Bateman hosts the second dinner party. (T) (R) **4.50 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special** (T) (R) **5.20 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special** (T) (R) **5.55 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special** (T) (R)

Channel 5



Patrick Stewart stars in A Christmas Carol, 8.10pm

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 TBA 10.05 Dallas Updated version of the soap, following the glamorous lives and vicious feuds of Texas oil dynasty the Ewings. Starring Josh Henderson and Jesse Metcalfe. (T) (R) **11.00 Once Upon a Time** Fantasy drama, starring Jennifer Morrison. (T) (R) **12.00 Once Upon a Time** A second helping of the fantasy drama. Regina steps up her efforts to get Emma out of town. (T) (R) **12.55 FILM: Crazy for Christmas (2005)** Family drama, starring Andrea Roth. (T) HH **2.45 FILM: Dear Santa (2011)** Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Amy Acker and David Haydn-Jones. HH **4.35 FILM: I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus (2002)** Family comedy featuring the classic song I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus, with stars including Connie Sellecca.

Prime Time

BBC1

6.10 **Pointless Celebrities** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous faces take part in the general knowledge quiz. (C)

7.00 **Strictly Come Dancing — The Final** Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present the eagerly anticipated final, the climax of a series that has seen slips, trips, a flying bicycle and even dancing on the judges' table. There has also been plenty of bickering between the fearsome foursome, Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell, while the celebrities faced their demons on the dance floor to tackle a range of ballroom and Latin routines. Tonight will be no less daunting, with the show dance offering each of the three couples the chance to include lifts, tricks and signature moves in a bid to win over the public. (C)

8.15 **Merlin** In the penultimate episod, Morgana prepares to wage war on Camelot, while Merlin finds the burden of his destiny weighing heavy as the ancient prophecies play out with unnerving accuracy. It soon becomes clear that the young wizard must find a way to save himself before he can helps his allies bring about the salvation of his beloved kingdom. Colin Morgan, Bradley James and Katie McGrath star. (C)

9.00 **The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws** The all-important numbers. (C)

9.10 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results** The celebrities return to the ballroom one last time, and following an elimination just two couples remain to battle it out for the glitterball trophy. While the votes are counted, all this year's contestants take to the dance floor for a final routine, and as the tension mounts, the names of the 2012 champions are revealed. (C)

10.10 **BBC News; Weather** (C)

10.30 **Match of the Day** Gabby Logan is joined by Alan Hansen to present highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Manchester City v Reading at the Etihad Stadium and Wigan Athletic v Arsenal at the DW Stadium. Plus, Liverpool v Fulham, Newcastle United v Queens Park Rangers, Southampton v Sunderland, Tottenham Hotspur v Stoke City, West Bromwich Albion v Norwich City and West Ham United v Everton. (C)

BBC2

6.40 **Porridge** Barrowclough and Mackay discover Fletch is cooking up some home brew, and the crafty con seems certain to spend Christmas in solitary confinement. Festive edition of the classic comedy from 1976, starring Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale. (C) (R)

7.30 **TOTP2 Christmas 2012** (C)

9.00 **Never Mind the Buzzcocks Xmas Special** Another round of the comedy music quiz. (C)

9.30 **The Mystery of Edwin Drood** Psychological thriller based on Charles Dickens' unfinished final novel. Choirmaster John Jasper is a troubled man, frustrated by his life in the claustrophobic cathedral town of Cloisterham, addicted to opium as he seeks to expand his horizons and obsessed with the 17-year-old Rosa. The only thing standing between him and the girl is his own nephew, Edwin Drood. Matthew Rhys, Tamzin Merchant and Freddie Fox star in the first of this two-part adaptation. (C) (R)

10.30 **The Mystery of Edwin Drood** Psychological drama. Jasper awakes in the gatehouse and to his horror sees the black scarf wound tightly round his hands, reminding him of the murderous events of the night before. Despite his feelings of guilt, as the weeks pass he seeks solace in his passion for Rosa Bud — but as he begins to reach for his prize, the Rev Crisparkle and Bazzard are following a trail of evidence to the cathedral crypt that may yet seal the choirmaster's fate. Conclusion of the period thriller based on Charles Dickens' unfinished final novel, starring Matthew Rhys and Tamzin Merchant. (C) (R)

11.30 **The Story of Fairytale of New York** The making of the classic Christmas song, recorded by Irish group The Pogues, and featuring British singer Kirsty MacColl, who tragically died in a swimming accident protecting her sons. The folk song, released originally in 1987, has become a perennial Christmas classic (C) (R)

ITV1

7.00 **Paddy's 2012 Show and Telly** Paddy McGuinness hosts a celebrity quiz in which three pairs of familiar faces answer questions about the past year's dramas, documentaries, sporting moments, comedies and game shows. Strictly Come Dancing's Denise Van Outen and Nicky Byrne, newsreaders Kate Garraway and Nicholas Owen, and Coronation Street's Antony Cotton (Sean Tully) and Chris Fountain (Tommy Duckworth) face a series of elimination rounds as they battle to win up to £20,000 for charity. (T)

8.00 **The Nation's Favourite Christmas Song** To mark the 70th anniversary of the release of the best-selling festive song of all time — Bing Crosby's White Christmas — this documentary counts down the top 20 tunes guaranteed to get people in the Christmas spirit, as voted for by the public. Featuring hits such as Wizzard's I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday, Fairytale of New York by the Pogues and Kirsty MacColl, Slade's Merry Xmas Everybody and Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas Is You, the programme tells the stories behind these ever-popular seasonal favourites, with contributions by Cliff Richard, Jona Lewie, Paul Young, Aled Jones, Noddy Holder, Shane MacGowan, Greg Lake, Katherine Jenkins and many more. (T)

9.30 **The Jonathan Ross Show** The host presents a celebrity-packed festive edition of his chat show. Funnyman Michael McIntyre pulls a few Christmas crackers, Sienna Miller talks about her new BBC drama The Girl, Sheridan Smith has two TV shows to plug — Mr Stink and Panto! — and Jamie Oliver cooks up a few yuletide treats. Welsh songbird Charlotte Church provides the music, and Paralympics stars Ellie Simmonds and Jonnie Peacock are also in the studio. Plus, a performance by Slava's Snowshow. (T)

11.00 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather. (T)

11.15 **Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)** Sci-fi action adventure sequel, with Arnold Schwarzenegger. (T)

Channel 4

6.25 **The Snowman** Raymond Briggs' festive favourite, a wordless animated fantasy telling the story of a small boy whose snowman magically comes to life and whisks him off on the journey of a lifetime to the North Pole. (T) (R)

6.55 **TBA**

7.00 **Channel 4 News** Including sport and weather. (T)

7.25 **4thought.tv** A Muslim who campaigns to integrate Islamic values with British society calls on all members of the faith to respond to blasphemy in a rational and non-violent manner. (T)

7.30 **Stephen Fry: Gadget Man** Stephen has a look at technology for the health and fitness market, testing the latest gym gadgets and receiving a makeover from former Towie star Amy Childs — who uses some weird and wonderful beauty devices. Other gadgets on the show include an app that predicts how long people will live, a hi-tech treadmill and a device that claims to make the user slimmer in just 30 minutes. Stephen also attempts to build the ultimate running machine that will enable him to race against double Olympic champion Kelly Holmes. (T)

8.00 **My Big Fat Gypsy Christmas** One-off special following the Irish travelling community during the festive season, featuring their Yuletide preparations for 2010, as well as two typically extravagant weddings and a First Communion ceremony. Celebrity Big Brother winner Paddy Doherty and his wife Roseanne also invite the cameras into their Salford home on Christmas Day, and the film introduces new families to the viewers. (T) (R)

9.00 **Four Christmases (2008)** Premiere. A couple, both of whom's parents are divorced, have always managed to avoid family Christmases by travelling overseas. However, when their flight is cancelled, all four parents insist they spend the day with them — forcing them to get through four family Christmases on the same day. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon. (T)

10.45 **Die Hard 2 (1990)** Tough cop John McClane arrives at an airport to pick up his wife but finds himself plunged into a bloody life-or-death struggle. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia, William Sadler, Franco Nero and William Atherton. (T)

Channel 5

6.20 **Mrs Miracle 2: Miracle in Manhattan (2010)** The kindly Mrs Merkle takes a job in the toy section of a financially struggling department store. She helps the downtrodden manager to enjoy a happy Christmas for once by making a success of the business and finding love. Family drama sequel, starring Doris Roberts, Eric Johnson, Jewel Staite and Lauren Holly.

8.05 **5 News Weekend** Round-up of the day's headlines from around the world. (T)

8.10 **A Christmas Carol (1999)** Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge loathes the Christmas season until, late one night, he is visited by a series of ghosts who intend to change his attitude by showing him visions of his past, his present and the fate that will await him if he continues with his cold-hearted behaviour. An excellent daptation of Dickens' classic tale, with an imposing Patrick Stewart, magnificent Richard E Grant, Joel Grey, Ian McNeice, Saskia Reeves, Tim Potter and Desmond Barrit. (T)

10.00 **An Audience with Ken Dodd** Comedy and entertainment from Knotty Ash's favourite funnyman, and a man who is particularly fond of Shropshire. This comedian never knows when to stop and regularly overuns his performances as he did recording this. In a programme originally aired in 1994 to mark his 40th year in showbusiness. Among the celebrity and appreciative audience helping him celebrate are the late Irish comic Frank Carson, Paul Daniels, Jane Horrocks, Belinda Lang, Carol Vorderman, Warren Mitchell and Kevin Whately. The show is condensed into two hours – when Doddy takes to the stage for his legendary live stand-up act, it goes on much longer... (T) (R)

Late View

12.00 The Football League Show Action from today's games. (C) **1.15 Weatherview** (C) **1.20 Sign Zone: Rolling Stones: Crossfire Hurricane** Part one of two. Profile of the veteran rock band. (C) (R) **2.20 Sign Zone: Rolling Stones: Crossfire Hurricane** Concluding part of the documentary charting the 50-year career of the band. (C) (R) **3.20 Sign Zone: Nigellissima — An Italian Inspired Christmas** Nigella Lawson prepares festive dishes with an Italian twist. (C) (R) **4.20 BBC News** 4.20 BBC News. 4.30 Click. 5.00 BBC News. 5.30 Brazil: Welcoming the World. (C)

12.25 QI David Tennant, Bill Bailey and Lee Mack join regular panellist Alan Davies to answer questions with a groovy theme, with points awarded for the answers host Stephen Fry finds most interesting. (C) (R) **12.55 Never Mind the Buzzcocks** A look back at some of the highlights of the latest series of the comedy quiz, in which team captains Noel Fielding and Phill Jupitus were joined by guest hosts including Lee Mack, Kathy Burke, Richard Ayoade, Nick Grimshaw, Ne-Yo, Example and Jack Whitehall. Last in the series. (C) (R) **1.25 FILM: Film TBA 3.25 Close**

1.45 Jackpot247 Viewers are offered the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with an entertaining mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. Featuring a variety of prizes and promotions. **3.15 In Plain Sight** Mary protects a pair of brothers — one of whom develops a gambling addiction. Mary McCormack stars. (T) (R) **4.05 ITV Nightscreen** Text-based information service.

1.00 FILM: Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010) Premiere. Comedy horror, starring Onni Tommila. (English Subtitles) **2.25 Hollyoaks** Omnibus. Cheryl doubts where Ste's affections truly lie, and Texas worries her big secret might be exposed as Dodger and Sienna spend more time together. (T) **4.30 90210** Annie is forced to make a decision that could expose her work as an escort when Dixon gets arrested in connection with a fire. Adrianna and Silver try to put their past behind them, and Vanessa organises a concert by rock band the All-American Rejects to relaunch Liam's bar. (T) **5.10 Sailing** With Mario Andretti. (T)

12.00 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 Milkshake's Wild Challenge** Michaela learns about meerkats. (T) (R) **4.25 Great Artists** Profile of Tiziano Vecellio, known as Titian. (T) (R) **4.50 Rough Guide to Eco Escapes** Morocco, Kenya and Nicaragua. (T) (R) **5.05 Hana's Helpline** Gwenda the giraffe struggles to share her best friend. (T) (R) **5.15 The Milkshake! Show** The housemates stay in their pyjamas during a storm. (T) (R) **5.40 Thomas & Friends** A funfair arrives on the island. (T) (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car** Maxi becomes afraid of racing. (T) (R)

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DECEMBER 23 CHRISTMAS TV

Early View

BBC1



Can Villa striker Benteke bring down the Blues?

6.00 Breakfast News, sport and entertainment reports. (C) **7.30 Match of the Day** Gabby Logan presents highlights of yesterday's Premier League clashes, including Manchester City v Reading at the Etihad Stadium and Wigan Athletic v Arsenal at the DW Stadium. (C) (R) **9.00 David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Paul** Part one of two. The actor tracks the man who brought Christianity to the masses. (C) **10.00 The Nativity** Retelling of the biblical story, starring Andrew Buchan and Tatiana Maslany. (C) (R) **11.00 Fern Britton Meets Dionne Warwick** The singer discusses her life. Last in the series. (C) **12.00 BBC News;** Weather. (C) **12.10 Countryfile** Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury visit an RSPB reserve in Norfolk. (C) (R) **1.05 TBA 1.55 FILM: Cool Runnings (1993)** Fact-based comedy about four Jamaicans who became the first bobsleigh team to compete for their country at the 1988 Winter Olympics. Starring John Candy, Leon and Doug E Doug. (C) HHH **3.30 The Borrowers** Fantasy adventure, starring Stephen Fry and Christopher Eccleston. (C) (R) **4.55 Songs of Praise** David Grant presents carols by candlelight. (C) **5.30 Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part two of two. Centrepieces, sweet treats and making clever use of leftovers. (C) (R)

BBC2



Sarah Millican Television Programme Xmas 2012

6.00 CBeebies 6.45 CBBC 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites James Martin presents highlights of the series, recalling his favourite moments from the past year in the kitchen. (C) **11.30 The Great British Bake Off Christmas Masterclass** Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood demonstrate how to make a number of festive favourites, including mince pies and Christmas pudding, as well as new recipes for tasty treats. (C) (R) **12.30 FILM: The Preacher's Wife (1996)** Romantic fantasy remake, starring Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington. (C) HH **2.30 Escape to the Country** People search for their ideal rural retreats. (C) (R) **3.15 Coast** The team visits locations around the British shoreline, telling stories and investigating mysteries that have played an important role in the nation's heritage. (C) (R) **3.30 Flog It!** People are invited to try to make money by selling their antiques at auction. (C) (R) **4.30 FILM: First Knight (1995)** A wandering swordsman is made a knight at King Arthur's court, where he falls in love with the monarch's queen. Adventure, starring Richard Gere, Sean Connery and Julia Ormond. (C)

ITV1



Vintage Carry On comedy in the Wild West, 1.45pm

6.00 CITV 9.25 There's No Taste Like Home Gino D'Acampo travels to Clitheroe in Lancashire, where he helps three home cooks prepare their family recipes for a Turkish chicken dish, fish pie and French veal. (T) **10.20 Dinner Date** Ken from Worcester takes part in the matchmaking show, choosing three blind dates from five potential partners, based entirely on menus they have created. (T) (R) **11.20 All Star Family Fortunes** Singer Suzanne Shaw takes on Coronation Street's William Roache. (T) (R) **12.05 ITV News and Weather;** Weather. (T) **12.15 Columbo 1.45 FILM: Carry On Cowboy (1966)** A timid English sanitation expert is mistakenly made sheriff of a lawless Wild West town plagued by notorious outlaw the Rumpo Kid. Comedy Western, starring Jim Dale and Sid James. (T) **3.30 FILM: Twins (1988)** Genetically designed twin brothers who were separated at birth set out on an adventure in search of their long-lost mother. Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. (T) **5.30 You've Been Framed!** Comedian Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile phone footage. (T) (R)

Channel 4



Damian Lewis stars in Homeland on at 9pm

6.05 The Hoobs The friends visit Peep gardens. (T) (R) **6.30 The Hoobs** Iver wants to ride in a police car. (T) (R) **6.55 TBA 7.25 TBA 7.50 TBA 7.55 The Bear** A large furry bear arrives from the zoo to take up temporary residence with a little girl and her parents. Heart-warming children's animation from the pen of Raymond Briggs. (T) (R) **8.25 Frasier** Niles and Frasier try to help their old school. (T) (R) **9.00 Frasier** Niles spoils Frasier's new radio show. (T) (R) **9.30 Xmas Sunday Brunch** Festive edition. Guests include The Gypsy Queens. (T) **12.00 The Big Bang Theory** Amy and Sheldon start a gossip experiment. (T) (R) **12.30 The Big Bang Theory** Priya finds a loophole in the room-mate agreement. (T) (R) **1.00 The Simpsons** Marge starts a carpentry business, but quickly learns she will need more than mere skill if her venture is to succeed. Fearing sexism, she appoints Homer as a figurehead. (T) (R) **1.30 Kirstie's Vintage Christmas** Kirstie Allsopp shows how to add the perfect festive touches. (T) (R) **2.30 Deal or No Deal** Game show, with Noel Edmonds. (T) **3.30 100 Greatest Toys with Jonathan Ross** A countdown of the nation's favourite games and playthings. (T) (R)

Channel 5



Billy Bob Thornton is Bad Santa, on at 9pm

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 TBA 10.15 Dallas JR secretly moves the Southfork deal along, but becomes suspicious of John Ross's relationship with the Del Sols, while Rebecca suggests Christopher should cancel their honeymoon. (T) (R) **11.15 Once Upon a Time** Prince Charming is ambushed by feisty thief Snow White. (T) (R) **12.15 Once Upon a Time** Cinderella regrets making a deal with Rumpelstiltskin. (T) (R) **1.15 FILM: The Santa Suit (2010)** Comedy, starring Kevin Sorbo. HH **3.00 FILM: It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie (2002)** Festive comedy, with Joan Cusack and Whoopi Goldberg. HH **4.45 FILM: The Family Man (2000)** Drama, starring Nicolas Cage. HH

Prime Time

BBC1

6.00 **BBC News; Regional News and Weather** (C)

6.30 **Countryfile** Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury bring us the latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. (C)

7.30 **Antiques Roadshow** Fiona Bruce presents a look back at the most important and talked-about finds from the most recent series, including highlights from the programmes themselves, as well as updates on the items, whether they went to auction, were kept or were lent to exhibitions. (C)

8.30 **Loving Miss Hatto** Drama about classical pianist Joyce Hatto, written by Victoria Wood. The story begins in early-1950s London, when she met her future husband William Barrington-Coupe, and tells their love story right up until 50 years later. With his wife stricken by cancer, record producer William released other musicians' work under her name, which became known as one of the biggest music frauds ever. Francesca Annis and Alfred Molina are among the cast. (C)

10.00 **BBC News; Regional News and Weather** (C)

10.25 **Match of the Day 2** Mark Chapman is joined by Alan Shearer and Dion Dublin to present highlights of today's Premier League fixtures, which were Swansea City v Manchester United at the Liberty Stadium and Chelsea v Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge. United earned a 1-0 win in last season's corresponding fixture against the Swans, while the Blues suffered a shock 3-1 home defeat at the hands of the Villans last term, an outcome that the visitors will have been desperate to emulate to aid them in their fight against relegation. Plus, all the goals from yesterday's fixtures. (C)

11.25 **The Graham Norton Show** With movie legend Dustin Hoffman, comedy double-act Billy Connolly and Jennifer Saunders and the current Doctor Who star Matt Smith. (C) (R)

BBC2

6.35 **The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show** Festive fun from 1973 with the ever-popular comedy duo and guests Vanessa Redgrave, Hannah Gordon, Rudolf Nureyev, Laurence Olivier and Andre Previn, all proving they are game for a laugh. Comic highlights include what is probably the couple's most famous sketch, which takes place in Eric and Ernie's bedroom. (C) (R)

7.35 **Victoria Wood with All the Trimmings** The comedienne sends up Christmas TV in a festive special from 2000. Guest stars including Julie Walters, Alan Rickman, Pete Postlethwaite, Celia Imrie, James Bolam, Delia Smith, Richard E Grant, Derek Jacobi, Alan Titchmarsh, Michael Parkinson and Imelda Staunton pop up in pastiches of everything from a big-band show from the 1950s to a Dickens period drama. (C) (R)

8.30 **Morecambe & Wise: Song & Dance Sketches** More classic clowning from the legendary double act who have been a Christmas institution for decades (C)

9.30 **James May's Toy Stories: Flight Club** The Top Gear presenter investigates the enduring appeal of the model aeroplane and sets out with the intention of achieving the first flight across the Channel by an engineless, homemade supersized toy — breaking the British distance record in the process. During his quest, James turns Indiana Jones to unearth surprising new evidence identifying children as the true pioneers of flight and wrestles with an underperforming craft that threatens to barely leave the ground. (C)

10.30 **The Sarah Millican Television Programme Xmas 2012** The award-winning comedienne hosts a special Christmas edition of her show, in which she delivers short stand-up routines inspired by festive TV. Sarah is joined by Downton Abbey star Hugh Bonneville and Shane Richie of EastEnders for a spot of Yuletide conversation. (C)

11.00 **Victoria Wood: As Seen on TV** The comedienne reflects on her television career with a combination of sketches, stand-up and songs. (C) (R)

ITV1

6.00 **Central News and Weather;** Weather. (T)

6.30 **You've Been Framed!** Comedian Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile phone footage. (T) (R)

7.00 **Ade's Christmas Crackers** Comic Ade Edmondson delves deep into the television archives to share some broadcasting gems and moments of TV gold which have been broadcast over the past 60 years (T)

8.00 **The Cube** TV presenter Melanie Sykes tackles up to seven seemingly simple challenges inside the giant transparent box, aiming to win £250,000 for good causes. Diversity star Ashley Banjo also takes a shot at scooping the charity jackpot — but will his 6ft 5 frame come in handy as the cube presents him with a series of fiendishly difficult tasks? The contestants both receive nine lives at the start, but with each one they lose, the pressure mounts. Phillip Schofield hosts. (T)

9.00 **Doors Open** Bored millionaire Mike Mackenzie is a man with a broken heart and too much time on his hands. Incensed by wealthy patrons hiding works of art away in private collections, he and two close friends — a professor and a banker — devise a plot to swap priceless masterpieces stored in a gallery's warehouse with near-perfect forgeries. If successful, Mike will save the paintings and might just win back the love of his life, auctioneer Laura Stanton, who left him five years earlier. Thriller based on the book by Ian Rankin, starring Douglas Henshall, Stephen Fry, Kenneth Collard, Lenora Crichlow and Brian McCardie. (T)

11.00 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather. (T)

11.15 **Fool Britannia** Hidden-camera pranks, with Dom Joly poking fun at what it means to be British, with a string of eccentric pranks. (T) (R)

11.45 **Premiership Rugby Union** Action from the latest round of fixtures. (T)

Channel 4

6.30 **Channel 4 News** Including a round-up of the day's sport and weather. (T)

6.55 **4thought.tv** John Holme talks about becoming a Christian and shares his belief that humans are born sinners. (T)

7.00 **Night at the Museum (2006)** A new nightwatchman at New York's Museum of Natural History discovers his job entails more than he bargained for. Once night falls, an ancient Egyptian spell brings the museum exhibits to life, entangling him in a riotous struggle to restore peace and order before the sun rises and visitors arrive. Fantasy comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Dick Van Dyke, Robin Williams, Carla Gugino and Ricky Gervais. (T)

9.00 **Homeland** US marine Nicholas Brody is rescued from captivity in Afghanistan, eight years after going missing in action. He returns home to a hero's welcome — but CIA agent Carrie Mathison believes there is more to his case than meets the eye, and suspects he is secretly working on behalf of a notorious terrorist. Thriller, starring Claire Danes, Damian Lewis, Morena Baccarin, Mandy Patinkin and David Harewood. (T)

10.00 **Peep Show** Comedy chronicling the rather chaotic friendship and private innermost thoughts of two misfits with an unhealthy reliance on one another. Robert Webb and David Mitchell star. (T)

10.30 **Dorian Gray (2009)** A naive Victorian man unthinkingly sells his soul for eternal youth, wishing that a portrait of him should age instead. His wish is granted and he is drawn into a life of debauchery by a hedonistic lord, while over the years, the painting becomes increasingly horrific as it reflects his corrupt true nature. Horror, based on Oscar Wilde's short story, starring Ben Barnes, Colin Firth and Ben Chaplin. (T)

Channel 5

7.00 **5 News Weekend** Round-up of the day's headlines across the UK and from around the world. (T)

7.05 **Christmas with the Kranks (2004)** A married couple from Chicago decide to steer clear of the usual festive celebrations and keep their cash for a holiday in the sun, prompting a busybody neighbour to call on the young and old members of the community to pull out all the stops to make them change their minds. Festive comedy that's a little disappointing when you consider the quality of the cast. Based on a novel by John Grisham, starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Tim Allen, Dan Aykroyd and M Emmet Walsh.

9.00 **Bad Santa (2003)** A grumpy alcoholic safecracker takes a job as an in-store Father Christmas with a view to robbing his employers' premises — but a bullied kid, a Santa-loving barmaid and an overzealous security guard look set to wreck his plans for an inside job. Thought-provoking black comedy, starring a great performance from a spot-on Billy Bob Thornton, Tony Cox, Brett Kelly, Lauren Graham, Bernie Mac and John Ritter.

11.05 **Superbad (2007)** Teen comedy, starring Jonah Hill and Michael Cera. Two immature high school students, who have been almost inseparable best pals, are forced to deal with separation anxieties as their plans to host a booze-fuelled party go badly awry.

Late View

12.10 FILM: Grumpy Old Men (1993) Comedy, starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. (C) **1.50 Weatherview** (C) **1.55 Sign Zone: Film 2012** Reviews of Jack Reacher, Pitch Perfect, Life of Pi and Midnight's Children. (C) (R) **2.25 Sign Zone: Holby City** Michael jeopardises his relationship with Ramona. (C) (R) **3.25 Sign Zone: Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part one of two. Nigel creates a selection of festive dishes. (C) (R) **3.50 Sign Zone: Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part two of two. Centrepieces, sweet treats and making clever use of leftovers. (C) (R) **4.20 BBC News** 4.20 BBC News. 4.30 HARDtalk. 5.00 BBC News. 5.30 World Business Report. 5.45 BBC News. (C)

12.30 QI Stephen Fry presents the comedy quiz, with outspoken actor and explorer Brian Blessed, and comedians Sean Lock and Ross Noble joining regular Alan Davies to answer questions on the theme of ice. (C) (R) **1.00 FILM: Film TBA** H **3.15 FILM: The Four Feathers (2002)** Historical adventure, starring Heath Ledger. (C) HH **5.20 Close**

12.45 Jackpot247 Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **2.45 River Monsters** Jeremy Wade heads to Thailand in search of the giant freshwater stingray, one of the world's largest and most terrifying river fish. Armed with a venomous 10in barb on the end of its whip-like tail, this 700lb predator tests the extreme angler to his physical limits, eventually snapping his rod and ripping his bicep. (T) (R) **3.45 ITV Nightscreen**

12.30 C4 Comedy Presents: Them from That Thing Part two of two. Sketches, with Blake Harrison and Morgana Robinson. (T) (R) **1.00 American Football Live** A match from the NFL. (T) **4.45 Supernanny US** The Froebrichs ask Jo Frost to help them control their children, whose behaviour has grown worse due to the stress of their grandmother coming to live with them. (T) **5.25 90210** Annie volunteers to organise a major charity event, hoping it will enable her to put her inheritance to good use. Naomi makes a risky bid to secure a client for her new business. (T) **5.35 FILM: Andre (1994)** Family drama, starring Keith Carradine. (T) H

1.15 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 House Doctor** A cluttered flat in Hammersmith. (T) (R) **4.25 House Doctor** A country cottage in Northamptonshire. (T) (R) **4.50 Rough Guide To** Antwerp, Dublin and Tel Aviv. (T) (R) **5.05 Hana's Helpline** Katy the kitten hopes to become a musician. (T) (R) **5.15 The Milkshake! Show** Shake tries to build a snowman. (T) (R) **5.40 Thomas & Friends** Duncan transports a bell. (T) (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car** Molecom wants to be more musical. (T) (R)

CHRISTMAS TV

CHRISTMAS EVE

BBC1



Agnes finds herself facing her busiest Christmas ever, 10.10pm

6.00 Breakfast Round-up of national and international news, plus the latest from the money markets. (C) **9.00 David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Paul** Part two of two. How Paul brought Christianity to the Mediterranean world. (C) **10.00 The Nativity** Conclusion. Joseph still cannot accept Mary's pregnancy, but as the people turn against her, Joachim begs his son-in-law to take her to safety in Bethlehem. (C) (R) **11.00 TBA 12.00 BBC News; Weather** (C) **12.15 Regional News;** Weather. (C) **12.25 FILM: The Santa Clause (1994)** A divorced father accidentally kills Santa Claus on Christmas Eve and is forced to deliver the presents himself. Fantasy comedy, with Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold and Wendy Crewson. (C) **1.55 FILM: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (2008)** The four Pevensie children return to the magical land of Narnia to help the rightful king reclaim his throne. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Ben Barnes and William Moseley. (C) **4.10 TBA 5.05 FILM: Lady and the Tramp (1955)** A pet dog is driven from her home, and learns to live on the streets with the aid of a roguish stray. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Barbara Luddy and Larry Roberts. (C)

BBC2



And it's Merry Christmas from them . . . The Two Ronnies

6.00 CBeebies **7.05** CBBC **9.00 FILM: Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988)** Comedy mixing live action and animation, starring Bob Hoskins. (C) **10.35 FILM: Christmas Snow (1986)** A miserly landlord throws a widow and her children out of their home, but finds he needs their help when he gets lost in a blizzard. Drama, with Sid Caesar and Katherine Helmond. (C) **11.20 The Great British Bake Off** Cooks battle it out to be named Britain's best amateur baker. (C) (R) **12.20 FILM: Flight of the Navigator (1986)** Sci-fi adventure, starring Joey Cramer. (C) **1.45 Wartime Farm Christmas** Rural life during the Christmas of 1944. (C) (R) **2.45 Equestrian** The Olympia International Horse Show. Clare Balding presents action from the seventh and final day of the prestigious event at the Olympia Grand Hall in London. (C) **3.45 FILM: Nativity! (2009)** A primary school teacher becomes a local celebrity when he dishonestly claims Hollywood is interested in his nativity play. Comedy, starring Martin Freeman and Ashley Jensen. (C) HH **5.25 Dad's Army** Frazer is unable to hide his delight when Captain Mainwaring's disreputable brother gatecrashes a sherry party for local dignitaries. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (C) (R)

ITV1



Jim Carrey is The Grinch in this film fantasy at 4.45pm

5.30 ITV Morning News (T) **6.00 CITV** (T) **8.15 FILM: Scooby-Doo and the Cyber Chase (2001)** The curious quintet are transported inside a video game, and must battle their way out through puzzles and mazes. Animated adventure, with the voices of Bob Bergen and Scott Innes. (T) HHH **9.25 FILM: Dennis (1993)** A well-meaning little boy's inability to stay out of trouble consistently infuriates his curmudgeonly old neighbour. Slapstick comedy, starring Walter Matthau and Mason Gamble. (T) **11.10 Dinner Date** Matchmaking show in which contestants choose three blind dates based entirely on menus created by five potential partners. (T) **12.10 ITV News and Weather** (T) **12.30 The Chase** Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (T) (R) **1.30 Doc Martin** Comedy drama, starring Martin Clunes. (T) (R) **3.30 Rod Stewart's Christmas** The rock star performs festive songs at Stirling Castle. (T) (R)

Channel 4



The Snowman and the Snowdog, animated film at 7pm

7.25 Famous Fred Animation about a singing cat, with the voice of Lenny Henry. (T) (R) **7.55 TBA 8.00 Ivor the Invisible** Children's animation. (T) (R) **8.30 FILM: Christmas Carol: The Movie (2001)** Animated drama, with the voices of Simon Callow and Kate Winslet. (T) HH **10.05 The Big Bang Theory** Amy and Penny use Bernadette to spy on Leonard and Priya. (T) (R) **10.35 The Big Bang Theory** Howard tells his mother he is engaged to Bernadette. (T) (R) **11.05 The Simpsons** Lisa becomes a Buddhist. (T) (R) **11.35 The Simpsons** Bart is caught shoplifting. (T) (R) **12.10 FILM: The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)** Puppet comedy, starring Michael Caine. (T) **1.50 FILM: Scrooged (1988)** Christmas comedy, starring Bill Murray. (T) **3.45 Deal or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner** Noel Edmonds hosts a seasonal edition of the game show. (T) **4.45 The Simpsons** Halloween-inspired tales. (T) (R) **5.15 The Simpsons** With the guest voice of Kiefer Sutherland. (T) (R) **5.45 Channel 4 News** Including sport and weather. (T) **5.55 4thought.tv** Members of the public reflect on religious issues. (T)

Channel 5



The Queen at Cosford as part of her Jubilee Tour, at 8pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.45 TBA 9.50 Dallas JR decides to move back to Southfork — but a dark cloud looms on the horizon as the Ewings' old adversary Cliff Barnes makes an unwelcome return. (T) (R) **10.45 TBA 11.45 Once Upon a Time** The mine collapses, trapping Henry and Archie inside. (T) (R) **12.40 Once Upon a Time** Prince Charming is slain by an opponent after a tournament. (T) (R) **1.40 FILM: Mistletoe Over Manhattan (2011)** Christmas fantasy, starring Tricia Helfer and Greg Bryk. (T) **3.30 FILM: Lost Holiday: The Jim and Suzanne Shemwell Story (2007)** Fact-based drama, starring Dylan Walsh and Jami Gertz. (T) **5.15 FILM: Scrooge — A Christmas Carol (1951)** Charles Dickens' fantasy, starring Alastair Sim. HHHH

Early View

BBC1

6.20 **BBC News;** Weather. (C)
6.35 **Midlands Today;** Weather. (C)
6.45 **A Christmas Carol (2009)** Premiere. A foul-tempered Victorian miser who hates the festive season is visited on Christmas Eve by a series of ghosts. The spirits intend to make him mend his wicked ways by showing him visions of the past, the present and what the future will hold for him if he does not change for the better.
8.15 **Merlin** As a fierce battle rages on Camlann's mighty plain, just as the prophecies foresaw, Merlin must find the strength to overcome his greatest challenge yet as he seeks a way to protect Camelot. As he fights to save the kingdom from the attacking hordes and keep Arthur safe from harm, the young wizard must finally come face to face with his destiny. The last-ever episode of the magical adventure series. (C)
9.00 **EastEnders** Max and Tanya call off the wedding after Lauren's alcohol-fuelled outburst. Alfie soldiers on, while Lola is devastated when Phil tells her Lola will not be home for Christmas. (C)
9.30 **Outnumbered Christmas Special** The Brockmans do their bit for the community by throwing a Christmas party for their friends and neighbours — but as they might have known, things don't go as planned. Jake seems to have fallen in with a bad crowd, Karen would rather be chatting online and Pete's mum has turned up unexpectedly. The guests aren't exactly a barrel of laughs either, as they include Sue's friend Jane, whose love life is a disaster zone, traumatised ex-weatherman Ray and opinionated neighbour Ray. However, the party games seem to go with a swing, thanks to organiser Ben. (C)
10.10 **Mrs Brown's Boys** Agnes finds herself facing her busiest Christmas ever, with Trevor stopping over, her grandson Bono staying on Christmas Eve and Dermot's triplets all arriving too. If that wasn't enough to juggle, she decides to take on the task of staging a Nativity play. The first of two festive editions of the comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll. (C)
10.40 **To be confirmed**
11.25 **BBC News;** Weather. (C)
11.45 **Midnight Mass from Leeds Cathedral** Live service from St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds. (C)

BBC2

6.05 **Carols from King's** The solo chorister singing the opening verse of Once in Royal David's City from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, marks the beginning of Christmas for millions of people around the world. Carols from King's tells the Christmas story through readings from the King James Bible and poems by Rainer Maria Rilke, William Austin and Laurie Lee. The world-famous King's College Choir, under the direction of Stephen Cleobury, sings carols including Ding Dong Merrily on High, Away in a Manger, The Holly and the Ivy, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, We Three Kings, In the Bleak Midwinter, Silent Night and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. (C)
7.20 **Dragons' Den Christmas Special** For the first time the Den opens its doors purely for commerce at Christmas, with nine entrepreneurs representing six businesses descend the stairs to pitch their festive ideas in the hope of securing a cash injection from the five multimillionaires. Alongside normal proceedings, there will be insights into the approach to take during the seasonal trading period as well as the pitfalls that can come with success. There is also a catch up with a few of the entrepreneurs — some who succeeded in gaining the Dragons' support and others who did not — to find out whether they hit it big this year. Evan Davis presents. (C)
8.20 **Open All Hours** Shopkeeping comedy, with Ronnie Barker as the miserly Arkwright, David Jason as his downtrodden nephew and Lynda Baron as Nurse Gladys Emmanuel. (C) (R)
8.50 **Porridge** Fletch discovers fellow inmates at Slade Prison are planning to escape — and decides to hide in the hospital so he cannot be blamed when the tunnel is discovered. Festive edition of the classic comedy from 1975, starring Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale. (C) (R)
9.30 **Ronnie Barker: The Many Faces Of..** (C)
10.30 **The Two Ronnies: The Studio Recordings** A collection of unedited takes from the classic comedy show, featuring both famous and more obscure sketches. (C) (R)
11.00 **Being Ronnie Corbett** Documentary charting the comedian's long career. (C) (R)

ITV1

4.45 **The Grinch (2000)** A grouchy creature plots to ruin Christmas and seasonal goodwill for the Whoville town residents. Fantasy comedy, based on Dr Seuss' book, starring Jim Carrey and Taylor Momsen. (T)
6.45 **ITV News and Weather** (T)
7.00 **Emmerdale** Cameron takes drastic steps to deal with his hostage after a chase through the woods, while Priya gives David his Christmas gift — a skiing holiday, but they leave on Boxing Day. (T)
7.30 **Coronation Street** It's going to be a dramatic Christmas for several of Weatherfield's best known couples. (T)
8.00 **You've Been Framed! Christmas** Harry Hill narrates a festive selection of camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile phone footage, including stumbling Santas, ungrateful children, a dog that uses a Christmas tree as a toilet, and an unexpected shock from some fairy lights. (T) (R)
8.30 **Coronation Street** More Christmas Eve drama from TV's most famous street. (T)
9.00 **The Spice Girls Story: Viva Forever!** A brand new and official, prime-time documentary on The Spice Girls including interviews with five stars themselves, plus their mothers, a host of celebrity pals, and more. It features behind the scenes footage of the infamous press call earlier this year, rehearsals and backstage footage of their performance in the The Olympics Closing Ceremony, and of course lots of sneak peaks of the new Spice Girls musical, Viva Forever, and its development.(T)
10.30 **ITV News and Weather** (T)
10.45 **Christmas Carols on ITV** (T)
11.45 **The Jonathan Ross Show** The star-studded line-up to take you into the early hours of Christmas Day includes Michael McIntyre, Sienna Miller, Sheridan Smith, Charlotte Church, Jamie Oliver, Jonnie Peacock and West Midlands' own Paralympic gold medal-winning star Ellie Simmonds. (T) (R)

Channel 4

6.00 **Hollyoaks** Barney tells Rob about his secret arrangement with Nana McQueen, unaware his admission has been overheard, and Brendan struggles to cope with his father's presence in the village. (T)
6.30 **Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas** Festive spin-off of the animated films. Sid the sloth accidentally ruins one of Manny the mammoth's Christmas traditions, and is worried to discover he may be on Santa Claus's naughty list — so he heads to the North Pole in a bid to redeem himself. (T) (R)
7.00 **The Snowman and the Snowdog** Animated sequel to Raymond Briggs' classic festive tale The Snowman. A boy's snowman and snowdog magically come to life at the stroke of midnight and take him on an adventure to the North Pole, where he and his new companions meet an assortment of colourful characters, including Santa himself, before returning home. (T)
7.30 **The Making of the Snowman and the Snowdog** One of the most popular British animations ever made, The Snowman has become a fixture in the Christmas schedules. Yet the talent behind the phenomenon is reclusive. Now, 30 years after the film adaptation of his children's book, Raymond Briggs provides an insight into his life, talks about his inspiration and reveals why he has finally approved a sequel. The programme also meets the creative team behind the new film, many of whom played a key role in the original, and others from the literary world share their thoughts on why his work is successful. (T)
8.30 **Stephen Fry: Gadget Man Xmas Special** The actor delves into the world of technology. (T)
9.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats** Panel show hosted by Jimmy Carr. (T)
10.00 **Peep Show** Comedy about two misfits with an unhealthy reliance on one another. Robert Webb and David Mitchell star. (T)
10.30 **The Inbetweeners** Carli organises a fashion show that Simon is eager to participate in. Will tries to shake off his embarrassing reputation, while Jay continues to lie about his sexual experiences. (T) (R)
11.05 **The Inbetweeners** Simon tries to impress a girl. (T) (R)
11.35 **The Inbetweeners** The gang visits a university. (T) (R)

Channel 5

7.00 **Rolf's Animal Christmas** Rolf Harris revisits some of the most memorable stories of the year from Rolf's Animal Clinic, a series that saw animals of all shapes and sizes receiving vital and often life-saving treatment. This festive special reveals how some of the patients fared after they returned home to their grateful owners following medical attention at the University of Liverpool's School of Veterinary Science campus at Leahurst in Cheshire; 5 News Update (T)
8.00 **A Right Royal 2012** A look at how the royal family has fared in the past year, with highlights including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which was celebrated by millions of people despite the rain. The low points saw the publication of revealing photographs of the Duchess of Cambridge in the foreign press, as well as a UK newspaper printing pictures of Prince Harry playing strip billiards in a hotel in Las Vegas. With contributions by ex-MP Ann Widdecombe, Diana, Princess of Wales's former private secretary Patrick Jephson, pageant master of the jubilee flotilla Adrian Evans, royal correspondent Robert Jobson and social historian Dominic Sandbrook; 5 News at 9 (T)
9.00 **Eddie Stobart's Christmas Cracker** Festive edition of the documentary following the company's truckers as they face one of their busiest times of the year. A hospital in Cambridge awaits the arrival of a huge Christmas tree to raise patients' spirits, while petrol forecourts expect bumper fuel deliveries for those facing long drives home. A town in the north east of England is due a consignment of reindeer for their annual parade and on top of all that, the drivers must hit the right note for the company's charity Yuletide single.
10.00 **Tommy Cooper's Christmas** A seasonal special from 1973, featuring a generous helping of mirth, mayhem and magic from the comedian, who demonstrates how to cook a duck-egg omelette, plays snooker with a sand wedge and rides an ostrich. Joining Tommy are singers Clodagh Rodgers and Sacha Distel, who perform a medley of festive favourites.
11.05 **The Plank (1967)** Slapstick comedy, starring Eric Sykes and Tommy Cooper.

Prime Time

Late View

1.05 FILM: Film TBA 2.35 Weatherview (C) **2.40 BBC News** 2.40 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 2.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 3.00 BBC News. 3.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 3.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 4.00 BBC News. 4.30 HARDtalk. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. 5.00 BBC News. 5.30 World Business Report. The latest business news, with informed analysis. 5.45 BBC News. (C)

12.00 Comedy Connections The story behind prison-based sitcom Porridge, and a chance to discover which actor was originally earmarked for the part of Godber. (C) (R) **12.30 QI** Stephen Fry hosts a Christmas edition of the quiz, asking Sarah Millican, Phill Jupitus, Danny Baker and Alan Davies questions on the theme of jingle bells. (C) (R) **1.00 An Island Parish** Shepherd David Scott has a difficult decision to make about his pet sheep Persil, and Rev Gill Nicholls faces up to leaving the island for good. Last in the series. (C) (R) **1.30 FILM: Film TBA 3.00 Close**

1.00 The Unforgettable Profiles of famous entertainers. (T) (R) **2.00 ITV Nightscreen 3.50 Pushing Daisies** Anna Friel and Lee Pace star in the long-awaited hit US drama about pie-maker Ned, who can bring people back from the dead just by touching them, then send them to the afterlife with just another poke of his finger. He decides to use his power to solve crime, bringing murder victims back to life so they can name their killers — but things get complicated when he resuscitates his childhood sweetheart and decides to let her stay alive, knowing they can never come into physical contact. (T) (R) **4.50 ITV Nightscreen**

12.10 The Inbetweeners Will is left home alone. (T) (R) **12.45 The Inbetweeners** Sitcom about four teenagers growing up in suburbia. (T) (R) **1.10 The Inbetweeners** Sitcom about four teenagers growing up in suburbia. (T) (R) **1.40 Rude Tube Special 2010** The most popular internet videos of all time. (T) (R) **2.45 Made in Chelsea** Reality show following the social activities of a group of people in their twenties, who live in and around the most exclusive postcodes in London. (T) (R) **3.40 90210** Naomi receives a surprise visit from her sister Jen. (T) **4.20 Deal or No Deal** Game show, with Noel Edmonds. (T) (R) **5.15 Countdown** Word game with Alistair McGowan in Dictionary Corner. (T) (R)

12.10 TBA 1.10 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 House Doctor** A Victorian property in Camden, north London. (T) (R) **4.25 HouseBusters** Life-enhancing changes to a home. (T) (R) **4.50 Great Artists** Profile of Renaissance painter Tiziano Vecellio, known to English-speakers as Titian, who pioneered the use of oils with a radical approach to light, colour and brush strokes. (T) (R) **5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge** Michaela Strachan gets groomed by monkeys. (T) (R) **5.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge** Jamie Crawford is challenged to kiss a poison dart frog. (T) (R)

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CHRISTMAS DAY CHRISTMAS TV

Early View

BBC1



Jenny Agutter in Call The Midwife, 7.45pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. (C) **9.00 TBA 10.00 Christmas Day Eucharist** Traditional morning service live from St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol. (C) **11.00 FILM: The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (2006)** Christmas fantasy comedy sequel, starring Tim Allen. (C) HH **12.25 BBC News** (C) **12.35 Weather** (C) **12.40 FILM: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (2008)** The escaped zoo animals come across their wild counterparts after their plane crashes in Africa. Animated adventure, with the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock and David Schwimmer. (C) **2.00 Top of the Pops Christmas Special** Fearne Cotton and Reggie Yates present the annual chart countdown. (C) **3.00 The Queen** Her Majesty's annual address. (C) **3.10 FILM: Shrek Forever After (2010)** Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Mike Myers. (C) **4.40 Room on the Broom** Animated adaptation of the children's book about a witch who invites a surprising number of animals to ride on her broom. The voice cast includes Rob Brydon and David Walliams. (C) **5.05 BBC News** (C) **5.20 Weather** (C) **5.30 Doctor Who** The Time Lord is summoned to Victorian England to thwart an icy menace. (C)

BBC2



The Choir: A Year with the Military Wives, 9pm

6.00 CBeebies 6.30 The Cow That Almost Missed Christmas Animation retelling the nativity story from the viewpoint of a young cow. (C) (R) **7.00 CBBC 9.00 Attenborough's Egg Hunt** David Attenborough returns to Madagascar 50 years after his first visit. (C) (R) **10.00 Attenborough's Ark: Natural World Special** David Attenborough chooses 10 animals he would most like to save from extinction. (C) (R) **11.00 Carols from King's** Music and readings from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. (C) (R) **12.15 FILM: On the Town (1949)** Musical, starring Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin. (C) **1.50 FILM: Singin' in the Rain (1952)** A silent-movie star tries to win the heart of an aspiring actress as the dawn of sound changes the film business for ever. Musical comedy, starring Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds. (C) **3.30 La Cenerentola** Andrea Andermann's production of Rossini's opera based on Cinderella, starring Ukrainian soprano Lena Belkina in the lead role and tenor Edgardo Rocha as Don Ramiro. (C) **5.30 The Queen** Her Majesty's annual address. (C) (R) **5.40 Arena: Sister Wendy and the Art of the Gospel** The nun talks about life, faith and art. (C)

ITV1



Fun for Mrs Patmore in the Downton Christmas special

5.30 ITV Morning News (T) **6.00 CITV** (T) **7.50 FILM: Scooby-Doo and the Alien Invaders (2000)** Animated adventure, with the voice of Jeff Bennett. (T) HH **9.25 FILM: Aladdin (1992)** A street urchin happens across a lamp, home to an affable genie with the ability to grant wishes. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Robin Williams and Scott Weinger. (T) HHH **11.15 The Nation's Favourite Christmas Song** A countdown of the top 20 tunes guaranteed to get people in the festive spirit, including classics by Wizzard, Mariah Carey, Slade, and the Pogues featuring Kirsty MacColl. (T) (R) **12.45 Text Santa: One More Time** Highlights of this evening's fundraising extravaganza. (T) (R) **1.15 ITV News and Weather** (T) **1.25 FILM: Toy Story (1995)** Pixar animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. (T) **3.00 The Queen** Her Majesty's annual address. (T) **3.10 ITV News and Weather** (T) **3.20 FILM: Tangled (2010)** Premiere. A princess locked in a tower escapes with the aid of a bandit and tries to find her way home. Disney animated comedy, with the voices of Mandy Moore and Zachary Levi. (T) HHH **5.15 You've Been Framed! Christmas Special** Harry Hill narrates camcorder calamities. (T)

Channel 4



The Lord of the Rings, the journey begins, 5.35pm

6.40 FILM: The Rugrats Movie (1999) Animated adventure, with the voice of Elizabeth Daily. (T) **7.55 Snowman** (T) **8.00 Father Christmas** Seasonal animation based on Raymond Briggs' book. (T) (R) **8.30 Little Wolf** (T) (R) **9.00 The Simpsons** The children are trapped in school. (T) (R) **9.30 The Simpsons** A department store Santa grants Lisa's Christmas wish. (T) (R) **10.00 Gordon's Christmas Cookalong** (T) **1.45 The Snowman and the Snowdog** Animated sequel to classic festive tale The Snowman. (T) (R) **2.15 FILM: The Wizard of Oz (1939)** A tornado whisks a girl off to a magical land where she embarks on a journey in search of the wizard who knows the way home. Musical fantasy, with Judy Garland and Ray Bolger. (T) **4.15 Alternative Christmas Message** Channel 4's annual alternative message. (T) **4.20 Deal or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner** Noel Edmonds hosts a seasonal edition of the game show. (T) **5.20 Channel 4 News** Including sport and weather. (T) **5.25 4thought.tv** Members of the public reflect on religious issues. (T) **5.30 Lord of the Rings: Fellowship Intro** (T) **5.35 FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)** Fantasy adventure, starring Elijah Wood. (T)

Channel 5



Rolf's Animal Christmas, revisiting the series at 6pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.25 TBA 9.30 Once Upon a Time The Evil Queen hires the Huntsman to kill Snow as his Storybrooke counterpart Sheriff Graham starts to remember his alternative life. (T) (R) **10.25 FILM: Gone with the Wind (1939)** A plantation heiress has a tumultuous relationship with a roguish Southern gentleman during the American Civil War. Epic romantic drama, starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable. More than 1,400 actresses were interviewed for the coveted role of Scarlet O'Hara. The one actress whom all of Hollywood felt had the role (including herself) was Paulette Goddard, live-in girlfriend of comedian Charlie Chaplin. When the press leaked the information they were "living in sin", Paulette was quickly dropped from consideration. **2.30 FILM: Trading Christmas (2011)** Premiere. A lonely widow and a frustrated writer arrange to swap houses for Christmas, and both find themselves having unexpected romances. Comedy, with Faith Ford and Gil Bellows. (T) **4.15 FILM: The Santa Incident (2010)** Premiere. Santa Claus is marooned in a small town and must prepare for Christmas without the resources of his North Pole workshop. Comedy, starring Greg Germann and Ione Skye. (T)

Prime Time

6.30 **Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special** Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly welcome seven former contestants and six Strictly newcomers to the dance floor to compete for the Christmas glitterball trophy, and singer Rod Stewart performs Let It Snow. Leading the line-up are 2008 and 2009 champions Tom Chambers and Chris Hollins, alongside series one winner Natasha Kaplinsky, while Kelly Brook, Rachel Stevens, Colin Jackson and Chelsee Healey also dust off their dancing shoes. Entering the ballroom for the first time are JLS singer Jonathan 'JB' Gill, former footballer Fabrice Muamba, comics Bobby Ball and Katy Brand, actress Sheila Hancock, and presenter Helen Skelton. Viewers' favourites Ann Widdecombe and Russell Grant add a little extra yuletide sparkle with a guest appearance. (C)

7.45 **Call the Midwife Christmas Special** The hit drama of the year returns for a one-off special — and what could be more festive than the nuns finding a newborn baby on the steps of the convent? The discovery prompts the community to rally round, providing food and clothing for the unexpected arrival. But the question remains — who is his mother and why did she leave him there? Jessica Raine, Miranda Hart, Pam Ferris and Jenny Agutter star. (C)

9.00 **EastEnders** Derek plots to ruin Max's Christmas festivities, and when his plan falls into place, the perfect day turns into a disaster. A fun day at the Vic prompts Roxy to tell Alfie a secret. (C)

10.00 **The Royle Family** A new neighbour's cleavage is one of the many topics of conversation as the couch-potato clan gathers for another fun-filled Christmas Day. This year Barbara has gone overboard with the presents after spending an entire two hours in the pound shop, Joe next door has turned to the lonely hearts column, although his advert leaves a lot to be desired, and Dave has had a flash of entrepreneurial inspiration Ricky Tomlinson, Sue Johnston, Caroline Aherne and Craig Cash star. (C)

11.00 **BBC News** All the latest headlines. (C)

11.10 **Weather** (C)

11.15 **To be confirmed**

11.55 **On Christmas Night** Paralympic medal-winner Rachel Morris reads Christmas story. (C)

6.40 **50 Years of Bond Cars: A Top Gear Special** Richard Hammond celebrates 50 years of James Bond films with a look back at the franchise's vehicles, including the Aston Martin DB5 and the Lotus Esprit. Richard also talks to silver-screen 007s Daniel Craig and Roger Moore, goes behind the scenes on the latest Bond adventure Skyfall, and attempts to turn a Lotus into a fully working submarine car. (C) (R)

7.45 **Dad's Army** The vicar holds a Comforts for the Troops Fund bazaar at which Mainwaring finds himself bidding against Pike for a highly prized orange. The private reveals a stubborn streak that costs the thick-skinned captain an arm and a leg. Christmas edition of the classic comedy originally shown in 1976, starring Arthur Lowe and Ian Lavender. Last in the series. (C) (R)

8.15 **Blackadder's Christmas Carol** It is Christmas Eve 1850, and the kindly Ebenezer Blackadder spends the festive season being taken advantage of by his relatives. When he is visited by the Spirit of Christmas, he gains an insight into the dastardly deeds of his ancestors. Comic reversal of the classic Dickens tale, starring Rowan Atkinson. (C) (R)

9.00 **The Choir: A Year with the Military Wives** In February 2011, Gareth Malone went to Royal Marines Base Chivenor in Devon to set up a choir for the woman whose partners were away on active duty for months at a time. In this film, he goes back to the small chapel where he started the singing group, with key members reflecting on an experience that was meant to culminate in a performance at the Royal Albert Hall — but which actually led to something bigger. (C)

10.00 **QI XL Jingle Bells** Extended edition of the comedy panel game, in which the questions are so difficult points are awarded for the answers host Stephen Fry finds most interesting. (C)

10.45 **The Sarah Millican Television Programme Xmas 2012** The award-winning comedienne hosts a special Christmas edition of her show. in which she delivers short stand-up routines inspired by festive TV. (C) (R)

11.15 **The Christmas No 1 Story** The battle for the chart-topping festive single has always been hard fought.(C) (R)

6.00 **Emmerdale** A special hour-long episode. Cameron heads to the woods to bury the body after his second killing. Alicia sees Priya wearing the bracelet and confronts David, while Edna discovers that she has been burgled. In a recent TV interview, Mark Charnock, who plays Marlon Dingle, explained that fans can expect a mix of comedy and drama in the show's festive edition. Charnock commented: "Our Christmas Day is a belter this year. It's an absolute belter. It's also got some very, very good comedy in it, particularly from Charlotte Bellamy who plays Laurel. "There's some really funny stuff, but the drama's shocking!" (T)

7.00 **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas** The comedian follows the work of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in London, meeting staff involved in treating, training and rehoming animals. A one-off special for the show which was a huge ratings winner when it ran through September and October. Paul, who is a fan of his furry friends, recently said. "I hate animal cruelty – it's just wrong and shows someone has no respect for life. We've got a responsibility to the animals we look after. I'm a member of Compassion In World Farming, which campaigns to improve conditions for farm animals. It's disgusting the conditions in which these creatures are shipped from Ramsgate over to Europe. If I were to go and picket, I would probably get arrested." (T)

8.00 **Coronation Street** Has Santa been kind to the cast of Weatherfield? This is soap world, so what do you think! (T)

9.00 **Downton Abbey** Costume drama set in an Edwardian country house, written by Oscar-winning writer Julian Fellowes. Starring Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville and Elizabeth McGovern. The Crawley family heads north to take a holiday in Scotland, leaving the servants behind at Downton. Drama, trauma and romance. (T)

11.00 **ITV News and Weather** (T)

11.15 **Couples Retreat (2009)** Premiere. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn and Malin Akerman. Four couples settle into a tropical-island resort.While one of the couples is there to work on the marriage, the others fail to realize that participation in the resort's particular brand of therapy sessions is not optional. (T)

9.00 **Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special** The host presents a festive edition of his talk show, joined by his house-band for the night, McFly, who perform a medley of their greatest hits. Chart toppers JLS join Alan on the sofa along with Dragons' Den star Hilary Devey, who talks about her two new programmes for Channel 4. Actor David Walliams also drops by to discuss new BBC family comedy Mr Stink, based on his children's book of the same name. Alan's father, Graham, had hoped Carr would be a footballer – after all, he'd been a footballer and manager, and his granddad had been a footballer, so there was a sense of inevitability. In a recent interview the funnyman was asked if it was a macho family? "Yeah, definitely. And that was just my mother. Heeheeheeeheee!" The be-spectacled comedian cackled. (T)

10.00 **Friday Night Dinner Christmas Special** The boys' other grandma ruins Christmas when she joins the family at the table for Mum's turkey dinner, accompanied by her equally horrible dog. She has the cheek to bring along her own food, knowing her daughter-in-law's cooking is not up to scratch, and gets into a fight with popular Grandma, to everyone's shock. Meanwhile, other dubious festive delights for the clan include Jim turning up dressed as Santa, and Jonny giving Adam a joke present. (T)

10.30 **Rude Tube Christmas Special 2012** Series showcasing the most popular internet videos of all time, and interviewing some of the people who create them. Alex Zane presents the first Rude Tube Christmas special – a countdown of 50 Christmas themed clips. Some are plain funny, others will make you cringe (T)

11.30 **Channel 4's Greatest Comedy Moments** If you haven't had your fill of great festive moments over on Five, this show takes a journey through the archive to serve up some vintage laughs. It's 30 years since the channel launched and in that time it has been responsible for some classics. From Comic Strip Presents and beyond, there's bound to be some gems. Expect to see memorable clips from such brilliant shows as Father Ted, Phoenix Nights, Max & Paddy and The Inbetweeners to name but a few. (T) (R)

6.00 **Rolf's Animal Christmas** Rolf Harris revisits some of the most memorable stories of the year from Rolf's Animal Clinic, a series that saw animals of all shapes and sizes receiving vital and often life-saving treatment. This festive special reveals how some of the patients fared after they returned home to their grateful owners following medical attention at the University of Liverpool's School of Veterinary Science campus at Leahurst in Cheshire.

7.00 **Eddie Stobart's Christmas Cracker** Festive edition of the documentary following the company's truckers as they face one of their busiest times of the year. A hospital in Cambridge awaits the arrival of a huge Christmas tree to raise patients' spirits, while petrol forecourts expect bumper fuel deliveries for those facing long drives home. A town in the north east of England is due a consignment of reindeer for their annual parade and on top of all that, the drivers must hit the right note for the company's charity Yuletide single; 5 News Update (T)

8.00 **Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel** As fierce blizzards grind much of the UK to a halt, the Eddie Stobart drivers struggle to transport 500,000 Christmas trees to garden centres in time for the start of the yuletide season. Meanwhile, a trucker in Wales risks being hijacked to deliver children's toys to a major retailer, and the chilled foods team takes on the massive challenge of shipping six million turkeys to the nation's butchers; 5 News at 9 (T)

9.00 **Eddie Stobart's Christmas Delivery** Festive edition of the documentary series, in which the company's truckers face one of their busiest times of the year. Battling harsh winter conditions, they set out to ensure shops around the country receive their supply of Christmas trees, salt is delivered to councils and supermarket shelves are stocked with plenty of products.

10.00 **Greatest Christmas TV Moments** Countdown of 50 festive crackers past and present, including classic soap moments, dramatic endings, sitcom specials, comedy sketches and light entertainment highlights that have made the television set the focus of the holiday season for decades. Expect to see the likes of Morecambe and Wise, EastEnders and Doctor Who.

Late View

12.00 FILM: Blades of Glory (2007) Ice-skating comedy, starring Will Ferrell as part of an all-male ice-dancing couple. (C) HH **1.35 Weatherview** (C) **1.40 BBC News** 1.40 ABC World News with Diane Sawyer. Global news reports. 2.00 BBC News. 2.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 2.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 3.00 BBC News. 3.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 3.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 4.00 BBC News. 4.30 HARDtalk. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. 5.00 BBC News. 5.30 World Business Report. The latest business news, with informed analysis. 5.45 BBC News. (C)

12.15 TOTP2 Christmas 2012 (C) (R) **1.45 FILM: Film** H **3.30 BBC News** 3.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 3.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 4.00 BBC News. 4.30 HARDtalk. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. 5.00 BBC News. 5.30 World Business Report. The latest business news, with informed analysis. 5.45 BBC News. (C)

1.30 Christmas Carols on ITV (T) (R) **2.30 ITV Nightscreen 3.30 Pushing Daisies** Anna Friel and Lee Pace star in the long-awaited hit US drama about pie-maker Ned, who can bring people back from the dead just by touching them, then send them to the afterlife with just another poke of his finger. He decides to use his power to solve crime, bringing murder victims back to life so they can name their killers — but things get complicated when he resuscitates his childhood sweetheart and decides to let her stay alive, knowing they can never come into physical contact. (T) (R) **4.30 ITV Nightscreen**

1.30 FILM: Airplane! (1980) Spoof disaster movie, starring Robert Hays. (T) HHHH **3.00 David Blaine: What Is Magic?** The illusionist performs amazing feats across America, impressing actor Orlando Bloom in New York, and seemingly catching a bullet in his mouth fired from a .22-calibre gun. (T) (R) **3.30 KOTV Boxing Weekly** Henry Lundy v Raymundo Beltran. Action from the NABF Lightweight title bout at the Resorts Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City. (T) **3.55 International Volleyball** A look back at the 2012 World League season, focusing on the teams aiming to make it through to the finals in Bulgaria. (T) **4.50 Extreme Sailing Series** The conclusion of the 2011 season. (T)

12.50 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 House Doctor** A country cottage in Worcestershire. (T) (R) **4.25 HouseBusters** Life-enhancing changes to a home. (T) (R) **4.50 Great Artists** The life and work of Pieter Bruegel the Elder. (T) (R) **5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge** Michaela Strachan travels to South Africa where she encounters a whale 500 times her size, and Ellie Harrison tries to photograph the inside of a hippopotamus's mouth. (T) (R) **5.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge** Ellie Harrison designs a bug detector. (T) (R)

CHRISTMAS TV

BOXING DAY

Early View

BBC1



Mia Wasikowska stars in Alice in Wonderland, 7.20pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. (C) **9.00 TBA 10.35 FILM: Film TBA 12.10 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers** Everyday cooking advice with the food writer. (C) (R) **12.40 BBC News** (C) **12.55 Regional News;** Weather. (C) **1.00 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out** The duo embark on their first adventure, taking a trip to the moon when their cheese supplies run out. Bafta-winning animation, with the voice of Peter Sallis. (C) (R) **1.25 FILM: Bolt (2008)** The canine star of a TV show, who believes his on-screen adventures are real, tries to find his way home. Animated adventure, with the voices of John Travolta and Miley Cyrus. (C) **2.50 FILM: Enchanted (2007)** A fairy-tale princess is magically transported from her cartoon world to modern-day New York. Part-animated fantasy comedy, starring Amy Adams, James Marsden and Susan Sarandon. (C) **4.30 FILM: How to Train Your Dragon (2010)** Premiere. A Viking boy longs to become a dragon slayer, but ends up befriending one of the giant flying lizards. Animated comedy, with the voices of Jay Baruchel and Gerard Butler. (C)

BBC2



Sienna Miller is The Girl, based on the Tippi Hedren story

7.00 CBeebies 9.00 The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart Exploring Africa's Great Rift Valley, which stretches for 3,000 miles from the Red Sea to the mouth of the Zambezi river and contains the world's widest array of wildlife. (C) (R) **10.00 Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild** David Attenborough looks back over his film-making career. (C) (R) **11.00 Darcey Bussell Dances Hollywood** The former Royal Ballet star celebrates classic dance musicals. (C) (R) **12.30 John Wilson on Broadway Uncut** Extended version of the BBC Proms performance of Broadway classics. (C) **2.40 FILM: An American in Paris (1951)** A struggling American painter living in Paris is torn between two women — his wealthy patroness and an engaged Frenchwoman. Oscar-winning musical, with Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. (C) **4.30 Final Score** A round-up of this afternoon's results from the Premier League, Football League and Scotland. (C) **5.30 FILM: Miss Potter (2006)** Victorian writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter falls in love while trying to find a publisher for her work. Biographical period drama, starring Renee Zellweger and Ewan McGregor. (C)

ITV1



That Dog Can Dance . . . Ashley and Pudsey in action

5.30 ITV Morning News (T) **6.00 CITV** (T) **9.25 FILM: The Railway Children (1970)** Three Edwardian children are forced to move from London to rural Yorkshire after their father is wrongfully imprisoned. Period family drama, with Jenny Agutter and Bernard Cribbins. (T) **11.25 Dinner Date** Matchmaking show in which contestants choose three blind dates based entirely on menus created by five potential partners. (T) **12.20 ITV News and Weather** (T) **12.30 FILM: Land of the Lost (2009)** An eccentric scientist and his two friends are transported into another dimension inhabited by dinosaurs. Comedy adventure, starring Will Ferrell, Anna Friel and Danny McBride. (T) **1.55 Local News and Weather** (T) **2.25 The Spice Girls Story: Viva Forever!** (T) (R) **3.55 FILM: Toy Story 2 (1999)** Cowboy doll Woody is stolen by an unscrupulous toy collector, who knows he is worth a fortune as a collectible, prompting fearless Space Ranger Buzz Lightyear to lead a daring across-town mission to rescue him. However, Woody is tempted to spend his life languishing in the safety of a museum rather than face the prospect of his owner growing up. Animated sequel, featuring the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack and Kelsey Grammer. (T) **3.59 Local Weather** (T) **5.45 ITV News and Weather** (T)

Channel 4



James Howson stars in the classic Wuthering Heights

6.10 The Hoobs Groove goes to a fancy-dress party. (T) (R) **6.35 The Hoobs** Groove feels down in the dumps. (T) (R) **7.00 Will & Grace** Jack is nominated for an award. (T) (R) **7.30 According to Jim** Dana is fixed up with a date. (T) (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond** Part two of two. Robert falls in love. (T) (R) **8.30 The Morning Line** Racing preview. (T) **9.30 The Big Bang Theory** Howard tells his mother he is engaged to Bernadette. (T) (R) **10.00 The Big Bang Theory** Bernadette receives her PhD. (T) (R) **10.30 The Simpsons** Moe becomes a successful poet with Lisa's help, and wins acclaim from a group of highbrow authors — but disappoints her by claiming all the credit for himself. (T) (R) **11.00 The Simpsons** Homer is fired from the power plant and secures a job as an ice-cream man, but gets so wrapped up in his new career that he puts his marriage in jeopardy. (T) (R) **11.30 FILM: Horton Hears a Who! (2008)** Animated comedy, featuring the voice of Jim Carrey. (T) HHH **1.15 Channel 4 Racing** (T) **3.30 Deal or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner** Noel Edmonds hosts a seasonal edition of the game show. (T) **4.30 FILM: Edward Scissorhands (1990)** Tim Burton's fantasy, starring Johnny Depp. (T)

Channel 5



Dynamo features in TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks

6.00 Milkshake! 9.45 TBA 9.50 Dallas JR schemes to cut John Ross out of the Southfork deal by undermining one of his allies, while a blackmail threat leaves Rebecca facing a dilemma. (T) (R) **10.45 Once Upon a Time** Emma's hopes of becoming sheriff are dashed when Mayor Regina appoints Sidney Glass, but then she receives an unexpected offer of help from Mr Gold. (T) (R) **11.40 FILM: The Greatest Story Ever Told (1965)** The story of the life of Jesus, from His birth to eventual betrayal by disciple Judas Iscariot and His death by crucifixion. Biblical drama, with Max von Sydow and David McCallum. **4.10 FILM: Will You Merry Me? (2008)** Premiere. A Christian man and his Jewish fiancee face a tense joint Christmas and Hanukkah when their families meet for the first time. Comedy, with Tommy Lioutas and Vikki Krinsky. (T)

Prime Time

BBC1	BBC2	ITV1	Channel 4	Channel 5
6.00 **Mr Stink** Family comedy based on the children's novel by David Walliams. Twelve-year-old Chloe has a lonely existence — her mother is too busy with her political ambitions to take any interest in her daughter, her hen-pecked dad is hiding a secret of his own and she cannot hope to compete with her 'perfect' younger sister — to say nothing of the nasty girls who make her school life a misery. So when she meets a tramp in need of somewhere to stay, she invites him to hide out in her family's garden shed — but it soon turns out there is more to her smelly guest than meets the eye. Downton Abbey's Hugh Bonneville stars, with Sheridan Smith, Johnny Vegas and Isabella Blake-Thomas, with an appearance from Britain's Got Talent winner Pudsey the dog. (C)	7.00 **Are You Being Served?** A classic British comedy still a hot today set in a department store. Young Mr Grace instructs everyone to wear fancy dress in the run-up to Christmas, turning the departments into fairy-tale grottos. Festive edition of the department store comedy from 1975. With a top rate cast including Harold Bennett, John Inman, Wendy Richard, Frank Thornton and Mollie Sugden. (C) (R)	6.00 **Central Tonight;** followed by Weather. (T)	6.30 **Hollyoaks** More from the Cheshire-based soap. Jacqui learns the full extent of Rhys's infidelity, Darren and Nancy struggle with their parenting woes, and Paul Browning plots to get Mercedes back in favour with the McQueens. (T)	6.00 **Rolf's Animal Clinic** Documentary following the work of staff at the University of Liverpool's School of Veterinary Science's campus at Leahurst in Cheshire. Presented by Rolf Harris.
7.00 **BBC News;** Weather. (C)	7.30 **Morecambe & Wise: Song & Dance Sketches** More crazy clowning from the oh so talented Eric and Ernie One to set the recorder for. (C) (R)	6.00 **All Star Family Fortunes** Game show, hosted by Vernon Kay. Well-known faces team up with their relatives and try to guess the answers to surveys of 100 people in a bid to reach the final round, in which they can win up to £30,000 for a charity of their choice. (T)	7.00 **Channel 4 News** Including sport and weather. (T)	7.00 **Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel** As fierce blizzards grind much of the UK to a halt, the Eddie Stobart drivers struggle to transport 500,000 Christmas trees to garden centres in time for the start of the yuletide season. Meanwhile, a trucker in Wales risks being hijacked to deliver children's toys to a major retailer, and the chilled foods team takes on the massive challenge of shipping six million turkeys to the nation's butchers; (R) 5 News Update (T)
7.15 **Midlands Today;** Weather. (C)	8.30 **Blackpool: Big Night Out** Drama and true life social stories from the party resort of the north west coast. (C)	7.00 **Emmerdale** Long-running soap set amid the rolling scenery of the Yorkshire Dales. (T)	7.05 **4thought.tv** Short films in which members of the public from all walks of spiritual life share their thoughts on religious and ethical issues, and reflect on events that have tested their beliefs. (T)	8.00 **World's Biggest Pets** Documentary about large animals romping through homes and neighbourhoods, including the world's tallest dog Giant George — who is the height of two average golden retrievers and weighs as much as 35 Yorkshire terriers. A man from Texas has devoted his life to his pet bison, which is the same size as a small family car, and a reptile fanatic from Newcastle shows off her Burmese python, which is capable of swallowing a human whole; 5 News at 9 (T)
7.20 **Alice in Wonderland (2010)** Premiere. A 19-year-old Alice returns to the magical land, having forgotten her previous adventures. She finds the tyrannical Red Queen has begun a reign of terror that can only be ended by slaying the monstrous Jabberwocky — a task she is seemingly destined to perform. Tim Burton's fantasy adventure based on Lewis Carroll's novels, starring Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Anne Hathaway. (C)	9.30 **The Girl** Toby Jones and Sienna Miller star in this one-off drama based on the story of director Alfred Hitchcock's obsession with Tippi Hedren, leading lady of his 1963 thriller The Birds. The film-maker was at the height of his fame when he chose the Scandinavian fashion model to star in his latest thriller, sculpting her into the perfect blonde of his imagination. But before long, he became determined to win her love, a pursuit that would end in failure. Imelda Staunton and Penelope Wilton co-star. (C)	7.10 **Lord of the Rings: Two Towers Intro** Setting up the night's big movie, the cast and crew talk about Peter Jackson's mammoth undertaking to adapt Tolkien's famous works (T)	9.00 **TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks** TV illusionists have been sawing ladies in half, catching bullets between their teeth, reading minds and performing feats of escapology for decades. Channel 5 counts down the best, including the astonishing set-pieces of Penn and Teller, the mind-bending of Derren Brown and the street magic of David Blaine. It features spectacular illusions, such as making the Statue of Liberty disappear, intimate card tricks and the lighter side of the business, thanks to the inclusion of comedy great Tommy Cooper. Paul Daniels and new kid on the block Dynamo also appear in this magic compendium, with contributions from Joe Pasquale, Dick and Dom, and Stephen Mulhern. (R)
9.00 **EastEnders** Derek's death has left a dark cloud over the Brannings, with Max insisting they check their stories before the police arrive. The atmosphere is strained between Alfie and Roxy. (C)	11.00 **Rebecca (1940)** Romantic drama based on the novel by Daphne Du Maurier, with excellent performances by Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine. When a naive young woman marries a rich widower and settles into his gigantic mansion, she finds the memory of the first wife maintaining a grip on her husband and the servants and especially the sinister housekeeper Directed by the legendary master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock, this deservedly won two Oscars.(b/w) (C)	7.15 **The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002)** Frodo and Sam continue their quest to destroy the all-powerful ring, bringing them face to face with the magical artefact's twisted former owner Gollum. Meanwhile, their allies prepare to make a desperate last stand against the vast armies of the corrupted wizard Saruman, who has declared war on a neighbouring kingdom. Part two of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy, starring Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Viggo Mortensen, Ian McKellen, Billy Boyd, Dominic Monaghan, Andy Serkis and Christopher Lee. (T)	11.50 **To be confirmed**
9.30 **Miranda** New series. The comedy series returns with a festive special that sees Penny threatening to cancel the joke-shop owner's Christmas if she can't manage to get her life in order. (C)		8.00 **That Dog Can Dance!** Simon Cowell has always said he wanted a dancing dog act to win Britain's Got Talent, and this year it happened, with Ashleigh Butler and her pooch Pudsey triumphing in the competition. Now, he's bringing this one-off entertainment show to ITV1, in which five twinkle-toed contestants and their talented pets hope to impress Ashleigh and celebrity co-judges Sharon Osbourne and Bill Bailey. The hopefuls are battling for the chance to perform at Crufts 2013. Christine Bleakley hosts. (T)	10.45 **Wuthering Heights (2011)** Another remake of the Emily Bronte novel. Premiere. A Yorkshire hill farmer takes pity on a homeless boy, and brings him back to his remote estate on the moors. The new arrival and the farmer's daughter develop an obsessive bond as they grow up, but he is ultimately cast out by her brother. He returns years later, seeking to be reunited with his lost love and to avenge himself on her family. An innovative 21st century take on the classic story, starring James Howson and Kaya Scodelario. (T)	
10.00 **Mrs Brown's Boys** Having cast herself in the role of the Virgin Mary Agnes vows to make her retelling of the Nativity at the community centre unforgettable. (C)		9.00 **Dale's Great Getaway** A fun-filled game show, hosted by Dale Winton, in which three families compete in a series of bonkers challenges from around the globe for the chance to win three very different prizes (T)		
10.30 **BBC News;** Weather. (C)		10.00 **ITV News at Ten and Weather** (T)		
10.50 **The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws** More fortunes are made. (C)		10.15 **The Holiday (2006)** Two single women living on opposite sides of the Atlantic agree to exchange houses over the Christmas holidays. In their new surroundings, both women unexpectedly encounter prospective partners, but as the house swap draws to a close, difficult decisions have to be made about their blossoming relationships. Romantic comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jack Black, Jude Law and Eli Wallach. (T) HH		
11.00 **Match of the Day** Including highlights of Manchester United v Newcastle United. (C)		10.30 **Local News and Weather** (T)		

Late View

12.30 FILM: Point Break (1991) Thriller, with Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze. (C) HHH **2.30 Weatherview** (C) **2.35 BBC News** 2.35 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 2.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 3.00 BBC News. 3.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 3.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 4.00 BBC News. 4.30 HARDtalk. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. 5.00 BBC News. 5.30 World Business Report. The latest business news, with informed analysis. 5.45 BBC News. (C)

1.05 Paul Merton Looks at Alfred Hitchcock The comedian analyses Hitchcock's classic British films, examining how these moody features — including The Lodger and Blackmail — provided the foundations for his rise to prominence as Hollywood's 'master of suspense'. Featuring rare archive footage of the film-maker and interviews with those who worked with him. (C) (R) **2.05 TBA 3.35 Close**

12.45 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Chris Tarrant invites another line-up of contestants to answer questions that could change their lives — with lifelines Ask the Audience, Phone a Friend and 50-50 available to them if they get stuck. (T) (R) **1.45 FILM: Every Which Way But Loose (1978)** Action comedy, starring Clint Eastwood. (T) HHH **3.50 ITV Nightscreen** Text-based information service.

12.45 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special With McFly, JLS, David Walliams and Hilary Devey. (T) (R) **1.45 FILM: Airplane II: The Sequel (1982)** Disaster movie spoof sequel, with Robert Hays. (T) HH **3.25 The Good Wife** The team defends a girl accused of murder at summer camp five years previously, after the discovery that DNA evidence was mishandled by the crime lab. Matthew Perry guest stars. (T) **4.00 90210** Adrianna takes Dixon to hospital after he collapses. (T) **4.40 Extreme Sailing Series** Action from the international series. (T) **5.10 Deal or No Deal** Another contestant hopes to win big money by guessing the value of numbered boxes — while the mysterious banker tries to make a deal. Noel Edmonds presents. (T) (R)

12.50 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 House Doctor** Kitchens and dining rooms. (T) (R) **4.25 HouseBusters** Life-enhancing changes to a home. (T) (R) **4.50 Great Artists** The life of El Greco, one of the most distinctive painters of the 16th century, whose work paved the way for the baroque and provided the inspiration for 20th-century expressionism. (T) (R) **5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge** Ellie Harrison tries to out-climb an antelope. (T) (R) **5.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge** Michaela Strachan tries to find out the age of an elephant. (T) (R)

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Renting? Stick to simple guidelines

AS DEMAND in the private rented sector continues to grow, the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) has issued advice to anyone embarking on a first-time tenancy.



Renting is very popular these days but make sure you know the rules

Figures from letting agents suggest that the UK's need for rental properties continues to grow with more tenants on their books than available properties to rent. Renting is often seen as a low-hassle, lower-risk option when compared to purchasing a home, yet many people find the prospect of renting a home daunting, whatever their age or experience.

First-time tenants, young or old, should remember to keep the process as focussed and simple as possible. Keeping to some simple guidelines can help tenants navigate the process from property hunting to signing a tenancy agreement.

ARLA has the following advice to help make the process as smooth and trouble-free as possible.

Research

It can pay to research your desired postcode. Be aware of the average rental rates in your desired area to avoid any surprises when looking for a property within your price range.

A local lettings agent should be able to give you a better idea of how much you should expect to pay for the type of property you are looking for.

Sometimes moving even a mile away, or simply over the road or round the corner from your target property can get you a lot more for your money.

Lettings is an unregulated industry: The rental industry is not subject to any government legislation, meaning that anyone can set up as a letting agent or landlord.

For peace of mind, do your research and seek advice from a letting agent affiliated to a professional organisation. All ARLA agents must adhere to a strict code of conduct, as well as offering client money protection and redress schemes, which protect consumers if things go wrong.

Your deposit should be secure. A rental deposit can often represent a significant initial outlay for tenants and is typically the equivalent of six weeks' rent.

It is a legal requirement that the landlord or lettings agent protects the deposit through a tenancy deposit scheme, such as the TDS, which guards against possible misappropriation of monies.

Tenants can find out more at www.direct.gov.uk

A professional inventory can help protect you: A well-prepared, detailed inventory assists in getting fair decisions at the end of your tenancy.

Make sure that you thoroughly check the inventory provided and that you are happy it accurately covers anything you have concerns about.

If there are photographs make sure they are good quality and reflect accurately any items captured. All documents should be signed and agreed by both landlord and tenant.

Consider

There are different kinds of tenancy agreement: Many shared tenancies contain a joint liability clause and this means you are responsible for the actions of your co-tenants for the duration of the tenancy.

This includes covering their share of the rent if they were to unexpectedly move out. Before you enter such an agreement consider how well you know your sharers.

And if you are asked for a guarantor when sharing, then make sure that they understand that they are guaranteeing all your responsibilities contained in the tenancy agreement.

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Three bedroom property comprsing lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, bathroom, rear garden, detached garage,double glazing & central heating (both where specified) with two bathrooms. Really must be viewed to appreciate the size & quality of accommodation on offer. Phone 01902 634497

Teddesley Coppice, Penkridge



£225,000

A traditional style extended detached bungalow within its own grounds comprising lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms, bathroom, conservatory & double garage. Cannock 01543 572251.

The Manor, Willenhall



£200,000

A "Showhome" style traditional four bedroom semi-detached home situated on the sought after "Manor" development that has been completely refurbished to an exceptional standard. A viewing is essential to appreciate the standard of finish. Phone 01902 634497

Partridge Close, Heath Hayes



£180,000

Well presented double fronted modern detached property comprising entrance hall, guest W.C., fitted kitchen, lounge, dining room, master bedroom with dressing area & en-suite, two further bedrooms & bathroom. Phone 01543 572051

Loxdale Sidings, Bilston



£170,000 NEW

Detached townhouse presented in immaculate order comprising main bathroom, two en-suites & stunning master bedroom suite. A viewing is essential, Situated moments from Loxdale Tram Stop. Offered with no upward chain. Phone 01902 634497

Kestrel Way, Cheslyn Hay



£170,000

Well presented extended three bedroom linked detached property comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility room, refitted bathroom & conservatory, driveway with garage, front & rear gardens. Phone 01543 572251

Pendeford Avenue, Wolverhampton



£160,000

Four bedroom semi detached property is currently undergoing a refurbishment program. It will provide open plan lounge & dining room, fitted kitchen/diner, separate utility room, downstairs W.C. brand new bathroom & en-suite shower room. Phone 01902 310000

Quinton Avenue, Great Wyrley, Walsall



£150,000

Three bedroom link detached bungalow being sold with no upward chain comprising entrance porch, lounge, kitchen diner, inner hall, bathroom & driveway with garage, front & rear gardens. Phone 01543 572251

Soberton Close, Wolverhampton



£150,000 NEW PRICE

Extended three/four bedroom link detached property within a cul-de-sac comprising lounge, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, bathroom & downstairs W.C. The garage has been converted into fourth bedroom & shower room. Phone 01902 310000

Langmead Close, Walsall



Offers Over £140,000 NEW PRICE

Three bedroom property is presented in modern order throughout comprising double glazed porch, a double glazed conservatory, a kitchen/diner & utility room. Approached via a crete print drive & garage. Phone 01902 634477.

Whitminster Close, Willenhall



£135,000 NEW

A three bedroom link detached home situated just off Stroud Avenue. Presented in immaculate order & benefitting from a garage. Having been extensively upgraded by its current owner, a viewing is essential. No upward chain. Phone 01902 634497

Welland Grove, Willenhall



£130,000 NEW

A well presented three bedroom semi-detached home situated on the popular "Kingfisher" development. Situated within walking distance to the Gurdwara & close to Willenhall town in a cul-de-sac location. No upward chain. Call 01902 634497

Edward Street, Wednesbury



£130,000 NEW

A recently redecorated three bedroom semi-detached home situated in a cul-de-sac location in Darlaston just off the Walsall Road. Offered with no upward chain. Viewing recommended. Phone 01902 634497

Bushbury Lane, Wolverhampton



£125,000

Three bedroom modern semi detached property with own garage comprising family bathroom, kitchen & garden in access of 50ft. The property offers also a guest W.C. en-suite to master bedroom. Phone 01902 310000

Upper Sneyd Road, Essington



£110,000

A stunningly presented three bedroom terraced cottage situated on a prestigious road in Essington. Having been extensively refitted internally & benefitting from a beautifully landscaped rear garden. With views of open fields to the rear. Viewing essential. Phone 01902 634497

Aston Road, Willenhall



£119,950

An extended three bedroom semi-detached home situated on a generous corner plot with front & rear parking. Presented in excellent order a viewing is advised to appreciate the space on offer. Phone 01902 634497

Hough Way, Essington



£115,000 NEW

A "Showhome Style" two bedroom, two bathroom apartment situated in a cul-de-sac location in Essington. Benefitting from allocated parking to the rear & local amenities such as Essington Pools wildlife area. Viewing is essential Phone 01902 634497

Langdale Drive, Longford



£115,000

Semi detached bungalow in need of cosmetic improvements comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two double bedrooms & bathroom. Driveway with garage, front & rear gardens, central heating & double glazing. No upward chain. Phone 01543 572251

Cowley Green, Hednesford



£109,950

Extended semi detached dormer bungalow in need of cosmetic improvements. Ground floor comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room/bedroom, kitchen & bathroom. Front & rear gardens with driveway & garage. Phone 01543 572251.

Dibble Close, Willenhall



£107,995 NEW

A recently refurbished three bedroom end-terraced home situated just off Stroud Avenue, comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, garden to the front & garden & decking area to the rear. Call 01902 634497.

Alder Road, Wednesbury



£100,000 REDUCED

A one bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a cul-de-sac location. Benefitting from an extended kitchen & presented in good order with off road parking & no upward chain. Phone 01902 634497

Willenhall Street, Wednesbury



£95,000

Three bedroom home benefitting from a refitted kitchen & bathroom, driveway parking to the fore. A viewing is essential to appreciate the improvement project the current owners have undertaken. Would make an excellent first home. Phone 01902 634497

PUBLIC NOTICE,



£74,950

PUBLIC NOTICE 8 Croxdene Avenue Walsall WS3 2NR. We act on behalf of the mortgagees in possession and they are in receipt of an offer of £110,000 subject to contract for the above property. Anyone wishing to place a higher offer must do so before legal exchange of contracts.

PUBLIC NOTICE,



£64,950

Dixons Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £62'500 for 76 Coltham Road, Willenhall, WV12 5QF Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Dixons Estate Agents 53 High Road, Willenhall, WV12 4JR 01902 634497 prior to exchange of contracts.

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Parents in the dark when selecting child safety seats

MORE than half of parents have never been shown or told how to correctly fit a child seat into their cars, according to research.

The data has come to light during a survey conducted by retailer Mamas & Papas and Alfa Romeo as part of the Safer Seat campaign, which aims to promote best practice around child car seats.

The survey also discovered that more than three in five parents (61 per cent) are unaware that there are different types of car seat available for different kinds of cars.

This lack of awareness could be particularly problematic because installing the wrong type of seat into any vehicle could significantly compromise its safety.

A third of those who answered the survey were also unaware that the safest kind of seat for a baby up to 13kg is a rearward-facing one.

Mounted

These can be mounted on most new cars' outer rear or front passenger seats, although the front passenger airbag should always be deactivated if that seat is used.

One in 10 mums and dads choose a car seat based solely on price rather than choosing a specific fit or function appropriate to their car.

Alfa Romeo and Mamas & Papas have compiled a checklist for parents of young children detailing how to choose the car seat that's right for them, and it also offers advice on how to install a car seat correctly.

The guide is available at Mamas & Papas stores, at Alfa Romeo dealerships and online via independent consumer advice service Which?



Price plays a big part when parents are choosing car seats

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BK58HBC	**Suzuki Swift** DDis 1248 Diesel Manual 5 Door Hatchback Red 58,000 miles	£5995
BN62YFT	**Suzuki Swift** SZ3 1.2 Petrol Manual 3 Door Hatchback Sunlight Copper Pearl 2,000 miles	£8995
LR58WWE	**Suzuki Swift** GLX 1.5 Petrol Manual 5 Door Hatchback Red 32,000 miles	£5495
BN62YFO	**Suzuki Swift** DDiS SZ3 New 1.3 Diesel Manual 5 Door Hatchback Cosmic Black Pearl Metallic 2,000 miles	£9995
BF57CUJ	**Suzuki Swift** GLX Vvts 1.5 Petrol Automatic 5 Door Hatchback Aluminium/Silver 47,000 miles	£5495
BN62YFU	**Suzuki Swift** DDis SZ3 New 1.3 Diesel Manual 5 Door Hatchback Sunlight Copper Pearl Metallic 2,000 miles	£9995
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BN62YFK	**Suzuki SX4** SZ5 4X4 2.0 Diesel Manual 5 Door Hatchback Cosmic Black 5,000 miles	£14695
WU58ZHN	**Suzuki SX4 GLX** 1.6 Petrol Manual 5dr Hatchback Blue 22,000 miles	£5995
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DV06FKF	**Fiat Grande Punto** JTD Eleganza Multijet 2.0 Diesel Manual 5 Door Hatchback Beige 58,000 miles	£3995
DU54FMJ	**Honda Jazz** DSi SE 1.4 Petrol CVT 5 Door Hatchback Blue 46,000 miles	£4595
DN12VKM	**Kia Picanto** 1 Air 1.0 Petrol Manual 3 Door Hatchback Black 2,000 miles	£7295
YF59NXZ	**Mazda 2** TS 1.4 Petrol Manual 5 Door Hatchback Red 25,000 miles	£6495
BJ08OFX	**Mini Cooper** D Clubman 1.6 Diesel Manual Estate Red 42,000 miles	£8695
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VN60FNE	**Peugeot 207** S 8V 1.4 Petrol Manual 5 Door Hatchback Aluminium/Silver 9,000 miles	£6795
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BT59AUC	**Vauxhall Astra** Active 1.4 petrol 5dr manual Silver 26,000 miles	£5995
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Alto 1.0 SZ (metallic paint available at £380). Alto SZ official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 43.5 (6.5) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 56.5 (5.0) to 78.5 (3.6), combined from 49.6 (5.7) to 67.3 (4.2). Official CO_2 emissions from 116g/km to 103g/km.

*VAT free offer on Alto SZ2, Alto 1.0 SZ2 available at £6,666, including a customer saving of £1,329 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £7,995 (Alto 1.0 SZ2) ΔIncludes customer saving. For full details please contact your local Suzuki Dealer. This offer is subject to availability for vehicles privately registered from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. ΔΔThe Suzuki Alto falls into Governemt Vehicle Excise Band A which is exempt from road tax. Excludes the Alto Play Special Edition. ***ESP® is a registered trademark of Daimler AG. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to print. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. This offer relates to Suzuki Driveplan (PCP Finance Deal). All prices are correct at the time of upload. Credit is available to persons aged 18 years or over, subject to status. Indemnities may be required.

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Solutions representative finance example
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based on 3.5 years, 6,000 miles per annum#

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Option to purchase fee	£60.00^^
Optional final payment	£3,870.00
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Solutions representative finance example
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based on 3.5 years, 6,000 miles per annum#

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41 monthly payments of	£198.89
Acceptance fee	£125.00^
Option to purchase fee	£60.00^^
Optional final payment	£5,715.00
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*Offer available on Citigo 3dr S 1.0 60PS 5spd Manual when purchased through ŠKODA Solutions. ‡Octavia 1.6 TDI CR SE 5dr when purchased through ŠKODA Solutions. Offers available on ŠKODA retail orders subject to availability before 31st December 2012. ^Payable with first payment. ^^Payable with optional final payment. #4.4p per mile excess charges apply. Further charges may be payable if the vehicle is returned. **Up to 3 years' or 30,000 miles free servicing (whichever comes first) available on selected models when purchased with Solutions or hire purchase. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available for over 18s in the UK from participating retailers. Excludes the Channel Islands. ŠKODA Finance.
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Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG.

Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

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Defensive error sees Pics drop down table

Rushall Olympic 1
Whitby Town 1

RUSHALL took an early lead, but were pegged back by an outfit hovering just above the Evo-Stik League Premier Division drop zone.

Whitby took advantage of a defensive error to claim a share of the spoils, ***writes Darren Stockall***.

Pics slipped to 14th as inconsistent home form let them down but Whitby will feel unfortunate not to win Saturday's game.

The Pics made four changes to a line-up that got a 2-2 draw at pacesetters North Ferriby United.

Captain Wayne Daniel replaced Kyle Haynes and Grant Beckett, Dave Walker and Andre Landell made way for Luke Bottomer, Michael Clarke and Joel Purkiss.

On five minutes Bottomer's ball for Clarke to run on to saw him play in strike partner Purkiss.

First

His shot was repelled and a follow-up from Danny Bragoli deflected for a corner. Skipper Daniel stooped to head Jon Haynes' delivery powerfully home for his first Pics goal.

Whitby's Graeme Armstrong put a free header wide and just before the half-hour mark a Nathan Mulligan free-kick was put beyond the goal by player-manager Darren Williams.

Olympic threatened as a Bottomer free-kick saw Clarke's powerful header was pushed around the post.

Within the opening minute of the second period a diving header from Armstrong went over Pics' bar.

In the 68th minute a high ball dropped towards the area. Gemmell tried to claim it but the ball bobbled for Craig Farrell to slot in.

A Bottomer corner was cleared as far as Bragoli whose drive from 25 yards cannoned off the post.

Football results

Lichfield & Walsall District

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Lichfield Charity Cup Round 2: Belt Road 1 Prince of Wales 2. **Round 3:** Chase Terrace Victoria 2 Lea Hall 3; Hussey Arms 0 Brereton Lion 3.



Jason Welborn, left, and Martin Gethin at the Walsall show
Picture: UKOBoxing

Contenders' good night out

Boxing

BLACK COUNTRY British title contenders Jason Welborn and Martin Gethin were outside the ring at Walsall FC.

The two, who each fight for a British title at Walsall Town Hall next month, were guests at an amateur show at Walsall FC.

But they will be inside the ropes at Walsall Town Hall on Friday, January 18.

Welborn, from Rowley Regis, challenges Birmingham's British welterweight champion Frankie Gavin while Gethin takes on Ben Murphy for the vacant British and Commonwealth lightweight titles. "It was a good night," said Welborn. "There were 12 really good bouts involving youngsters from all over the Midlands and it was nice to be a part of the evening."

Welborn and Gethin are both managed by Errol Johnson.

They have been training together regularly as they prepare for the biggest nights of their boxing lives in the new year.

"Training has been going well," declared Gethin.

"I get on really well with Jason and enjoy working with him. We both know what the other one is going through and how important the fights are to us both.

"We're able to help each other through.

"We're both feeling good and will be 100 per cent ready come fight night."

Tickets for the Frank Warren Show – in association with EJKO Promotions – are priced at £30 and £60 and are available from Walsall Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900.

The show will be live and exclusive on BoxNation (Sky Channel 437/Virgin Channel 546).

Details at www.boxnation.com

Long drawn out wait for a victory goes on

Walsall 2 Yeovil 2

WALSALL's stroll towards their first win in 16 matches became a lurch down a familiar path.

The Saddlers have snatched draws from the jaws of victory before, having tossed away 2-0 leads against Brentford, Crewe and Port Vale this season, ***writes Nick Mashiter.***

It is a worrying habit which returned on Saturday in a game which they should have won against a side that showed little invention, craft or guile. The fact they didn't after being 2-0 up with 12 minutes to go underlines their problems.

There have been too many 'could have' and 'should have' moments. They must end or the Saddlers will face the consequences.

Teams who go on such winless runs – the club record is 22 – and fail to take their chances are ultimately relegated.

No-one wants to see that and Walsall have deserved more than they have got during this morale-sapping run.

Home

Saturday's visit of struggling Colchester now gets pushed up a couple of notches.

The bottom line is they haven't picked up the points and that's why they lie in 19th only two places above the drop zone – a position which has become a second home in the last two years.

There is sympathy for Dean Smith and his team, though. They are striving, straining, for that win – perhaps too much as Febian Brandy conceded afterwards.

There is little to work with, little money in the pot to change things and the Saddlers must persevere with what they have.

And it is difficult, there's no denying it.

The manager set out a blueprint – one which he hopes will end seasons of struggle – and he will rightly insist it will not happen overnight. But what the Saddlers need now is a short-term solution and that is three points. Smith was understandably peeved post-match and, for the first time, looked to be feeling the pressure.

His tone wasn't as forgiving to the line of questioning when asked if he was worried about the form or the run. He still has the board and many seasoned viewers on his side but no manager in his position wouldn't be affected by the slide, however confident in his abilities he is.

He and the players are feeling the heat now – professional pride has been stung and a siege mentality must begin to form.

Still hurting from the 5-1 lashing at Coventry, Ben Purkiss, Adam Chambers and Paul Downing replaced Richard Taundry, Nicky Featherstone and the suspended Andy Butler respectively.

And the changes paid dividends early on as, after Will Grigg missed an early chance, Jamie Paterson's 13th-minute opener calmed the nerves. His cool finish from the edge of the area owed much to Brandy's vision and tenacity as his pinpoint pass skipped across the box. The striker has produced some of the Saddlers' best moments in these dark times and he terrorised the Yeovil defence. But for a misplaced header in the second half he would have scored and Walsall will look to him to end this run.

Despite Brandy's invention, though, the Saddlers failed to conjure a meaningful chance during a forgettable spell where they easily held off the Glovers.

The only moment of worry was when Dan Burn clattered into keeper Aaron McCarey and the ball ended up in the net – but the goal was rightly disallowed. Finally a second did come on 72 minutes when Brandy spun on halfway and ran at the frightened Yeovil defence, he drew them out and squared to Grigg who found the corner.

It should have killed off Yeovil and Grigg lobbed over the top from 40-yards with visiting keeper Marek Stech stranded.

Reprieved, Yeovil hit back when Reuben Reid – who scored six in a loan spell at the Banks's from Albion two years ago – tapped in Sam Foley's cross. Even then, Walsall were expected to hold on against a Yeovil team so bereft of ideas. But they didn't.

Chambers' reckless challenge in the middle gave Jamie McAllister the chance to loft in an injury-time free-kick and Foley capitalised. And so it continues…



Febian Brandy rues the late goal



Will Grigg celebrates his goal as everything looks good with the Saddlers 2-0 ahead



Chris Mould – 100 up

Chris on the run to land 100th try

Walsall 48 Camp Hill 6

IN the 58th minute Walsall full-back Chris Mould ran nearly 40 metres to score his side's fifth try – his 100th try for the club since a September 1998 debut.

The hosts ruled for long periods in a Midlands One match, using fluent rugby skills on a difficult surface.

Walsall took a 3-0 lead as Matt Wood put over a 30-metre penalty. Captain Steve Halbert got their first try after a powerful five-metre scrum. Wood's conversion increased their lead.

The visitors had their best period in the next 10 minutes as Walsall lost control and conceded penalties. Ian Briggs put over two.

Walsall finished strongly for a superb try as Wood broke out of defence and linked well with his centres. Roger Weston ran well before putting Mould away.

Effective

The full-back timed his pass perfectly to release Paul Naylor on a 25m try scoring run for a 15–6 interval lead.

The restart saw strong Walsall attacks with No. 8 Daniel Simpson and centre Weston very effective.

The visitors' indiscretions saw two players in the sinbin and several penalties at close-range scrums eventually resulted in a penalty try.

A super effort saw scrum-half Liam Lloyd make a 30m break before finding the ever-present Max Hughes in support. The young flanker finished off well.

Weston put Mould through for his try five minutes later, and the centre delivered another pass for fellow centre Harvey Wootton to burst through.

Winger Jeffrey Williamson got the seventh and final try supporting strong forward drives. Wood's fifth successful conversion completed scoring.

With eight minutes left, he was in the sinbin and there was desperate defending to keep out Camp Hill before the final whistle.

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Page 39



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Olympic ease out Roms in cup win

Romulus 0 Rushall Olympic 3

HOLDERS Rushall cruised into the last eight of the Walsall Senior Cup at neighbours Romulus to set up a tie with Evo-Stik League Premier Division rivals Stafford Rangers.

In the sixth minute Danny Bragoli fed Ahmed Obeng, who cut inside and rattled a post with a venomous drive.

The loose ball eventually fell for Grant Beckett but he miscued wide of the target.

On 15 minutes, Jon Haynes' free-kick towards the far post saw a downward header from Gavin Caines go wide. Five minutes later a flick-on found Ramone Stephens in a good position but his low drive bounced shy of the far post.

Ten minutes before the interval Pics' Obeng got the better of Roms skipper Marcus Jackson down the left and, with five opponents within 10 yards, he played a one-two with strike partner Dave Walker and slotted home from 12 yards.

Ambitious

Within four minutes of the restart a counter-attack saw Stephens release Obeng to cut inside, beat his marker and unleash a low drive into the bottom left corner.

On 40 minutes Romulus' Mykel Beckley tried an ambitious effort that was safely gathered by 'keeper Chris Gemmell. Five minutes later Daniel O'Callaghan, 40 yards out, sent an effort just wide.

Pics began the second half with Haynes, injured in the first period, replaced by Nick Amos. Beckett dropped back into the left-back position.

With 20 minutes remaining the Pics all but sealed their place in the next phase of the competition when Danny Bragoli played in Walker through the centre.

The striker advanced forward and fired a clinical low drive into the bottom right corner from the edge of the box beyond the Roms goalkeeper.

Pics slip – Page 39

Chris ton-up try glory 14 years on

WALSALL rugby union fullback Chris Mould has become a ton-up man.

Mould scored his 100th try for the club in their 48-6 home win over Camp Hill.

The moment of glory for Mould, who made his first appearance in September 1998, came in the 58th minute.

Full report – Page 39

Hunt devours prey to give Star the points

Heather St John's 0 Continental Star 1

MATT HUNT'S late tap-in gave Continental Star all three Midland Alliance points.

He collected a rebound after Aaron Garvey's shot from the left was well saved by Heather keeper Pete Maguire.

Earlier, Maguire did well to parry and fall on a 30-yard thunderbolt from Star skipper Davion Hamilton.

Star keeper Richard Gethin made a first-class save to tip Shane Gibbs' sharp, low volley round the post and the home side also struck the woodwork through Ryan Nash.

But Star, for their part, had a tap-in by Tony Green disallowed for offside. Star, who moved up two places to 15th with 20 points from 16 games, are back in league action on Saturday hosting Boldmere St Michaels at 3pm

Basement alert for Saddlers

by Nick Mashiter

FEBIAN BRANDY has warned the Saddlers they face hitting rock bottom in League One.

The striker insists slipping into the basement is a real possiblity if they don't end a 16-match winless streak.

They blew a 2-0 lead late on to draw 2-2 with Yeovil on Saturday and sit two points above the drop zone in 18th.

Brandy said: "We can't keep saying 'we've got another chance' because before you know it we'll be bottom of the table," with Colchester visiting the Banks's Stadium on Saturday.

"We'll be in trouble there and we need to rectify all the mistakes we're making and think more positively than negatively. Because of the run we're on, we're looking for a win too hard instead of playing the normal game.

"It's always in the back of our minds – 'we need to win'. I know that's everyone's mentality normally – even Barcelona – but because we've got a bit of pressure on us that's where the silly mistakes are coming from."

Walsall are winless in 13 in the league – since September – and were put out of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy by Port Vale and FA Cup by non-league Lincoln after a replay.

After the Us they face tricky trips to MK Dons and Leyton Orient before the New Year's Day visit of Stevenage.

Brandy added: "Any team looks at the league to see where they are and who's catching them.

"We do it all the time. We know we're near the bottom and we need to win games but the team we have got is capable of getting out of it. We need a bit of luck and something to go our way to get us off the mark and under way."

Aldridge slow to stoke up pressure

Aldridge 36
Birmingham Barbarians 0

ALDRIDGE, with a number of enforced changes, took a long time to subdue a spirited Barbarians side in Midlands Five West (North).

They never gained ascendancy in the tight scrummages, but won plenty of line-out and loose possession and only basic handling errors and a lack of nous kept them scoreless until well into the first half.

Eventually, the backs, who had been creating plenty of problems for the opposition defence, broke through.

On the half-hour, centre Ben Pittam injected some pace into a three-quarter move which took him over in the corner.

Impetus

A couple of minutes later a well weighted cross-kick from scrum-half Adam Reed sat up invitingly beneath the posts for fly-half Chris Jones to gather one-handed and touch down. He converted.

In the second half, with flankers Trevor Lowe and Richard Tipton becoming more prominent, Aldridge increasingly gathered impetus and began to dictate proceedings.

Winger Jeremy Male finished off a three-man overlap, squeezing into the corner.

Lock Dan Woodward used his bulk to skittle the defenders close to the posts and left-winger Jacob Holding crossed in the corner following some slick three-quarter interpassing.

Jones converted two and then grabbed his second try at the close, bursting over midway out to complete the scoring.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, December 20, 2012.

KEANE GIVEN SHOT AT MIDLANDS BELT

WALSALL'S Christopher Keane will take on former British champion Shane McPhilbin for the Nottingham man's Midlands cruiserweight title on the undercard of the Jason Welborn and Martin Gethin bill.

Keane becomes the second hometown fighter, along with Gethin, to go in for a belt on Friday, January 18 at Walsall Town Hall after being added to the undercard.

Gethin fights Ben Murphy for the British and Commonwealth lightweight titles while Welborn tackles British welterweight champion Frankie Gavin, ***writes Daniel Mole.***

Boxing

Keane, an ABA national amateur champion in 2009, is undefeated with a perfect eight-fight record, with five stoppages, since since turning professional in 2009.

The prospect of a first title fight in his hometown is one that the 26-year-old is relishing, saying: "It will be a good night.

"I'm from Walsall so it will be special for me. The atmosphere will be crazy.

Good

"It's going to a memorable night.

"It's good for the West Midlands that we are bringing top boxing to the area.

"I have had a decent year. My fitness is there and I'm on top of my weight."

He added: "I'm not one to get carried away but I'm feeling good."

His opponent represents a step up in class for the former Pleck ABC amateur.

Also 26, McPhilbin has fought the likes of Michael Sprott in Prizefighter and has held the British cruiserweight title, as well as the Midlands belt.

'Mr Block' defeated Leon Williams in January to claim the British title.

But Enzo Maccarinelli then won a unanimous decision to take the belt from him in his very first title defence.

McPhilbin lost to Jon Lewis Dickinson on points in another attempt to lift the British title in October.

But Keane knows that he faces his toughest test yet in the ring.

Keane said: "He's been in with some good fighters and gone the distance, so it should be a good fight.

"He's got a decent ranking. He's a decent fighter and he will be coming to win.

"He's coming to knock me out and I will be looking to do the same.

"The cruiserweight division hasn't got that many fighters in it so this is a good fight in the division.

"I will be training hard for this one.

"I always keep myself ticking over and I've been busy this year, so I will be ready for McPhilbin come fight night."

The fight takes place on promoter Frank Warren's first show of 2013, in association with Midlands promoter Errol Johnson.

The bill is being televised by BoxNation.

First-round gloss finish gives Lauren the title

LAUREN JOHNSON has taken a female ABA national title to Walsall Wood Amateur Boxing Club with a stunning opening-round stoppage – in her first-ever competitive fight.

The Wolverhampton fighter made it to Sunday's final without a fight through a series of byes at 75kg in Class C, for girls who have had up to five bouts.

The 26-year-old painter and decorator made the short journey to Cannock Chase High School to face the undefeated Natalie Mc-Gauclin, of High Wycombe ABC.

And she was blown out of the water by a damaging series of assaults from the opening bull, as Johnson flew out of the blocks.

McGauclin tried to trade and came off worse as her exposed chin was punished time and again, rocking her head back and forcing an early standing count.

She was allowed to continue but failed to cover up and was pummelled again, with the referee stepping in to call an end to the fight.

Victory inside the first minute was a superb result for the novice combatant, who only took up the sport earlier this year and could now box for England.

Johnson is only the second female to represent Walsall Wood after Lauren Lang, who reached the semi-final of the same competition last year.



Lauren Johnson celebrates her title victory at Cannock Chase High School

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